

THE MAN WITH SOMETHING TO CONFESS Will Tony go over to Rome?

ROBIN WILLIAMS **GROWS UP** .. but 'Good Will Hunting' may not win him his Oscar



THE GREAT **MOBILE PHONE** SCANDAL Why you are paying

over the odds NEWS, PAGE 6

Newspaper of the Year for photographs

Iraqi children are dying - you can save them

"IRAO'S CHILDREN are going Established and agencies were sup-through hell," Robert Fisk notes to-day in his latest dispatch from Iraq.

The Iraqi regime deserves no de-fenders. And yet, as Fisk's reports

which initially suggested that there
this week have made clear, it is the
impocent who have suffered most

the day yesterday, pledging support of medicines must be separately apfor The Independent's appeal to col- proved by three ministries: the Delect funds for sick children in Iraq. partment of Health, the Foreign

innocent who have suffered most. . said that permission could quickly be Readers telephoned throughout granted. Every application for export

Office, and the Department of Trade and Industry.

The Independent will remain involved with ensuring that the drugs get directly to those who most need them. The Red Cross and the Birmingham-based Islamic Relief are among those who have said they are ready to offer practical help in getting the vital drugs to the right place. Officials of the UN sanctions

NDEPENDENT

Iraq, but remain in desperately short supply. The drugs include vincristine and methortrexate, urgeotly needed Hussein's chemical warfare factories. for treating leukaemia. There has been an explosion in the number of the group which rebelled against Sad- E14 5BT.

dependent is planning to send could

medicines of the kind which The In- The cases appear to be connected with the bombardment of Iraq durbe issued "within two or three days". ing the Gulf War, perhaps from Medicines may be exported to fumes from burning oil refineries which contained carcinogens, or of international agencies, but would even from the hombing of Saddam

Many victims are Shia Muslims. leukaemia cases in Iraq, as reported dam in the south of Iraq in the wake

committee said that authorisation for in Robert Fisk's harrowing reports. of the Gulf War of 1991. That is one reason why the Iraqi government has seemed determined to turn a blind eye to the tragedy. The deliveries of drugs would be with the assistance not be controlled by the Iraqi regime. The Independent Iraq Appeal, PO Box 6870, I Canada Square, London

Robert Fisk, page 18

Brown and Blair isolate Irvine

By Anthony Bevins and Colin Brown

LORD Irvine of Lairg, the beleaguered Lord Chancellor, has been left beaten and isolated after a behind-the-scenes battle over the future price and prof-.. it regulation of gas, electricity, gling, Lord Irvine is underwater, and telecommunications

The Independent has been told that Lord Irvine, who chairs the cabinet committee on future legislation, was standing out against an early Bill to reform regulation of the privatised utilities. But following an intervention by Gordon Brown, Chancellor of the Exchequer who does not sit on the committee - Lord Irvine was forced into retreat. Some ministers believe his defeat signals a "with-

drawal of love" by Tony Blair. The Treasury and the De-



Lord irvine: retreat

partment of Trade and Industry had wanted the Regulatory Reform Bill to be included in the Queen's Speech programme for next autumn's session of parliament, But Lord Irvine astooished colleagues by saying that he did oot see the Bill as a priority to political terms. His opponents argued that Margaret Beckett, the Presidens of the Board of Trade, had set up an inter-departmental review last July, which was specifically welcomed by the Treasury in the Budget Red Book.

Mrs Beckett said then that 13 years after the Torics had put the first regulatory regime in place, it was time to take stock. She said the review would address coocerns about profit levels, service quality, investment shortfalls, and the social implications of



some commercial decisions particularly for low income and disadvantaged consumers".

The Whitehall review is due to report in the next few weeks - with public consultation due to be completed by the summer.

In cabinet committee wranstood to have been told that any delay in legislation would create a loss of momentum and any scandal involving prices, profits, or "fat-cat" executive rewards would immediately be

pinned on the Government. But Lord Irvine obstinately dug in, and it was only after intervention by Mr Brown that he was over-ruled. A Whitehall insider told The Independent last night that the question had been "resolved" to the satisfactioo of Lord Irvine's opponents.

That defeat in Cabinet committee comes bot on the heels of the row over the lavish decoration of his official quarters - and numerous disputes with other cahinet colleagues, including Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, and Donald Dewar, the Secretary of State for Scotland. This week's statement on legal aid was also seen as a retreat on earlier plans that provoked outrage in

the legal profession. The Lord Chancellor found himself in even more hot water yesterday, following claims that he misled a Commons committee over the secret talks being held between Labour ministers and Tory leaders on refurm of the House of Lords.

Conservative members of the Commons Public Administration Committee accused Lord Irvine of misleading them after he gave the impression on Tuesday that no talks were taking place between the parties over Lords reform.

The Lord Chancellor dismissed the value of such talks in the past, saying: "A muckle lot of good h did them". But on Thursday night, Lord Cranborne, the Tory leader in the Lords, revealed that he had attended two comfidential meetings with Lord Richard, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the Lords.

The Prime Minister's official spokesman last night dismissed the claims as a "Tory get-Irvine" campaign. "There is a world of difference between the sort of soundings that have been made and substantive talks," he said.

Lord Irvine could now face a demand to return to the committee for another grilling, if he fails to satisfy the chairman with his explanations.



Army tries trooping other colours

THE ARMY said yesterday that it was finally facing up to its responsibility to give equal treatment trumpet its commitment to equal opportunitie to ethnic recruits, even in its most elite regiments, writes Ian Burrell.

Tourists passing the Hyde Park headquarters of the Household Cavalry yesterday may have been surprised to see dozens of young black men from London and Birmingham and a busload of Sikhs from Leicester drilling on the parade ground. The potential recruits were undergoing a four-day course to give them a taste of life in the Guards regiments.

For the military it was an opportunity to and television cameras were summ film the top brass's promises to rid the ranks of the "stigma of racism".

Military chiefs fear high-profile discrimination cases brought by black soldiers, and damaging reports by race watchdoes, are a serious disincentive to potential ethnic recruits. So the Household Cavalry yesterday launched a new race-conscious recruitment video, Changing of the Guard, intended to make black recruits more at home.

Formula One to drop its links with tobacco

By Andrew Buncombe

FORMULA One could seven its ties with tobacco advertising within four years. Max Mosley, president of the FIA, motor racing's world governing body. took the sporting world by surprise by announcing that a ban could be in place by 2002 in advance of a European Directive tobacco sponsorship.

The European Directive would have banned the £200m a year spent on the sport by tobacco companies by 2007 if proof were found that it caused people to start smoking. Yesterday, however, during preparations for the Grand Prix in Melbourne, Mr Mosley said the sport would act well in advance of the deadline if the link

could be proved. The FIA has consistently said that, if presented with evidence of a direct link between tobacco advertising-sponsorship and smoking, it would act to eliminate tobacco advertising-sponsorship from Formula One," he said

The news was music to the ears of the European Commission, which feared that a Europe-only ban would result in more Grands Prix being held on other continents, particularly Asia. A spokeswoman for social affairs commissioner Padraic Flynn, who has consistently campaigned against tobacco advertising, said: "We strongly welcome today's announcement. They have the power to make this a worldwide ban while we can only oppose it at

EU level. "We can furnish the FIA with any evidence or studies they want to show this link."

Tobacco manufacturers were less pleased. "We feel the FIA has bowed to political pressure." said John Carlisle, spokesman for the Tobacco Manufacturers' Association in London. "All the evidence points to advertising not being linked to people starting smoking."

Murdoch's 'Angel of Death' descends

By Steve Boggan and Andrew Buricombe

RUPERT Murdoch's American-based "Augel of Death" swooped on HarperCollins in Loodon vesterday amid speculation that the media tycoon's retribution over the Chris Patteo book affair was nigh.

Anthea Disney was locked in talks all day with the senior executives who Mr Murdoch said had left him in an "inexcusable positioo" after dumping Mr Patten's book East and West, in an action for breach of con-

which is critical of the Chinese tract against HarperCollins. regime. Ms Disney, chairwoman of News America pub- why Ms Disney was in London lishing, parent company of but her presence fuelled spec-HarperCollins, a woman often described by colleagues as a tions or mutual partings were "corporate assassin", flew in imminent. from New York yesterday morning and immediately went into a meeting with Eddie Bell, chairman of HarperCollins, and other senior executives. Her arrival coincided with a decision by Mr Patten's lawyers to include Mr Murdoch personally

. The company refused to say ulation that sackings, resigna-

"She's not here to hand out leoners," said ooe Harper-Collins source. Another said: We're expecting the carpets to turn blood red. She's regarded here as something of an Angel of Death."

Ms Disney, a former British tabloid reporter, has a reputa-

tion for doing Mr Murdoch's more brutal bidding. Last year, she axed more than 100 American titles on the grounds that they were either late or no longer commercially viable.

"She only comes in once a year," said another Harper-Collins insider. "And it's usually when there is a crisis of one form or another.

"The atmosphere is very jittery. People are very expectant and there is a widespread belief that a number of heads are go-



Breathtaking rugby action captured by David Ashdown

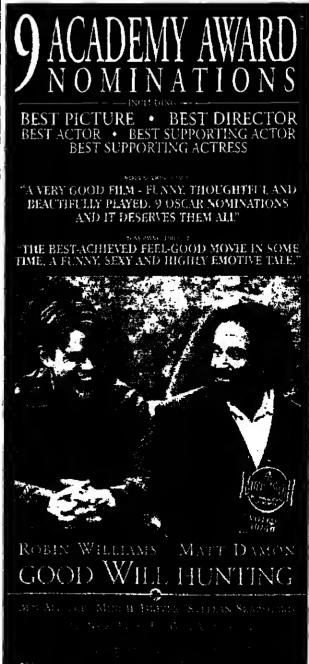
'Independent' wins another top award

M DAVID ASHDOWN, Chief Sports Photographer of The Indeb Independent on Sunday, was last night named Sports Photographer of the Year.

■ The prize was announced at the Press Gazette British Press Awards dinner in London. Ashdown, who is currently in the West Indies for the England cricket tour, has been with The Independent since the newspaper's launch in 1986.

■ David Rose, also of The Independent and the Independent on Sunday, was commended in the Photographer of the Year category.

■ Last night's awards followed other recent Independent honours for photography, including the Newspaper of the Year prize in the British Picture Editor Awards.



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TOMORROW

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up 41.4% of the raw material for UK new apers in the first haif of 1997.

Blair brings Adams in from the cold

By David McKittrick Ireland Correspondent

TONY BLAIR vesterday announced that he is prepared to meet Gerry Adams next week, following the expiry of Sinn Fein's period of exclusion from the multi-party

The Prime Minister's official spokesman said, however, that the meeting was not expected to take place before the second half of next week. This may create timetabling problems in that Mr Adams is due to fly out to the US on Wednesday for St Patrick's Day activities.

Sinn Fein was temporarily barred from the talks after the British and Irish governments concluded that the IRA had been involved in two Belfast killings. They will be allowed to re-enter on Monday next, but Sinn Fein sources have made it clear they do not intend to go back until after the prime ministerial meeting.

Mr Blair is also to see Social Democratic and Labour Party leader John Hume. Ulster Unionist MP Ken Maginnis yesterday described the decision to hold any meeting with Sinn Fein as foolish, while the Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democrat-

ic Unionist Party, accused the Prime Min-

ister of acting in "obscene haste" and of "dancing to Gerry Adams' tune".

And efforts to move the peace process along continued yesterday with a telephone call between Mr Blair and Bertie Ahern, the Irish Prime Minister.

. Meanwhile, politicians of all parties pondered the intriguing results of the largest opinion survey ever carried out in Ulster, which among other things produced strong evidence that nationalists may not insist on a united Ireland in the short term. The poll was carried out for BBC Northern Ireland television's respected political programme,

Ninety per cent of SDLP supporters, and half of Sinn Fein supporters, said they would accept an outcome from the present talks which fell short of a united Ireland. This will be of keen interest to the Govcrament in a process where success will depend on a willingness to compromise.

A less encouraging finding, however, was the opinion of no fewer than 82 per cent that violence from groups who are not on ceasefire, such as the INLA and LVF, "could derail the whole process". Another pessimistic finding was that 87 per cent. thought the parties would not come to an agreed settlement by the target date of May.

Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble should now talk directly to Sinn Fein. The poll indicated that nationalists have appreciably more confidence in Mr Hume and Mr Adams than Unionists have in Mr Trimble and Mr Paisley. The highest ratings went to Mr Hume and David Ervine, leader of the Progressive Unionist party.

A fourth man was arrested yesterday in connection with Thesday night's killings of two men, a Protestant and a Catholic, in the Co Armagh village of Poyntzpass. Three others arrested on Wednesday were last night still in RUC custody.



Sit! A family settling down to a picnic on the first day of Crufts yesterday, complete with pet (stuffed toy) dog. The four-day show, at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham, will see more than 20,000 dogs in competition and culminates in the prestigious Best in Show event on Sunday

Masons surrender over police scandals

Crime Correspondent

surrendered the names of members of their secret society who are linked to a series of police scandals.

The decision to provide the list followed an extraordinary dispute with a committee of MPs who threatened to find the masons io contempt of Parliament if they refused to co-operate.

The United Grand Lodge, which criminal justice system. For months anger and "concerns" at the affair.

The brotherhood provided 17 names of fellow masons out of a list of 161 people, mostly police officers, connected to three scandals

The affair comes at a time when Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, has proposed measures to set up registers of Freemasons working in the

represents 340,000 Freemasons in the Freemasons resisted requests terday provided a list of eight out England and Wales, is to write to the from the Home Affairs Select Com- of about 60 police officers, a small THE leaders of England and Wales' Prime Minister, Lord Chancellor, mittee for the names of their mem-number of journalists, magistrates, Freemasons last night reluctantly and Home Secretary, to express their bers as part of an inquiry into judges and a barrister, connected to whether the brotherhood was responsible in anyway for a number of notorious scandals.

A formal order was issued by the Sergeant at Arms after the Lodge's Grand Secretary, Commander Michael Higham, refused to release the names at a bad-tempered hearing of the committee two weeks ago. Greater Manchester was suspend-

Howeverthe Freemasons yesed from his investigation into whether the RUCoperated a shootto-kill policy. the IRA pub bombings investigation that lead to the wrongful conviction of the Birmingham Six; seven names from 96 members of disbanded West Midland Serious Crime Squad

irman, Labour MP Chris Mullin. to provide the information, because in its view the Committee's inand two out of seven officers conquiry is an invasion into the privacy nected to the John Stalker affair, in which the deputy chief constable of consented to their oames being

disclosed."

Prescott digs in on sale of Tube

and Randeep Ramesh

JOHN Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister, has risked putting the Old back into Labour by guaranteeing London Underground will remain "publicly controlled and publicly accountable".

The pledge was in a letter to former Tory MP Hugh Dykes. an opponent of rail privatisation. The phrase echoes words used by Labour in opposition. The commitment was dropped from the election manifesto, despite being approved by the party's membership.

Mr Prescott has taken an increasingly hard line with the private sector, perceived to he lining directors' pockets while providing a poor service. This week has seen the Deputy Prime Minister weighing in for the taxpayer after the National Audit Office criticised the handling of the sale of British Rail's rolling stock. Sold io 1996 for £1.8bn, months later they were bought up for £2.65bn, netting directors millions. Mr Prescott said: "The rolling-stock companies have been getting fat at the taxpayers' expense. It is completely unacceptable."

He also put paid to plans by FirstBus to buy up Great Western. Again, former British Rail directors stood to make millions In a letter to the Committee despite providing a service where almost one in five trains Cmdr Higham said: "The Board is is "officially" late. First Bus yesextremely uncomfortable about this terday met the franchising dicompulsion and has been reluctant rector, John O'Brien, who has takeo "guidance" from the Deputy Prime Minister. This means any change in ownership of the men concerned, who have not will require tough new punctuality targets, investment on new trains and lower fares.

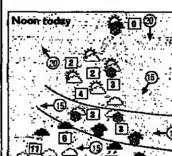
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WILLIAM



WEATHER

England, Wales and Northern Ireland will be cloudy with outbreaks of rain. Some of the rain will be heavy with a risk of local flooting in south-west England and Wales. Across on them England and Northern reland it will be cold enough for snow on higher ground at their mostly terming to can later. By contract, the south will be mid with a blustery south-west which. Meanwhile, northern Scotland will have surnly spells and the cold show strower, but steader shed or snow will edge northwards into southern Scotland.

Outlook for the next few days Scotland will stay cold with some steet and snow showers weamer may also asect the river or norwern england. Elsewhere if will burn colder but showers will be of rain, with

HARTSTON WEATHER WISE



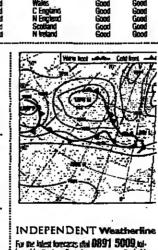
Lighting-up times

Out and about with AA Roadwatch Cut 0336 401777 to the latest to

cal and returned traffic owns. Source. T Automobile Association. Cat's charge at 50p per min at all times (inc VAT) explains Europe's weather. Going by the name of Gorczynski's Continentality Index, it

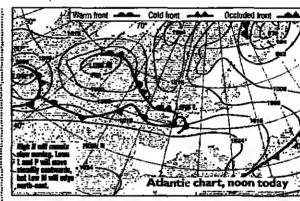
 $K = 1.7(A/\sin\theta) - 20.4$ where A is the annual temperature range in degrees Celsius, and 8 is the latitude angle of the location under consideration. The idea of the formula is to cold.

obtain a precise measure of the difference in climate between places near the sea and those in the middle of a land mass. In general, places with a maritime climate will have a lower range of temperature (A) than landlocked locations. With the occans releasing their stored been worked out, they are then er extremes of temperature, the climate.



the coast. Britain, for example, has a generally moderate climate because the sea is colder than the land in summer and warmer than the land in winter, thus cooling us down when it's hot, and warming us when it's

So the value of K in the formula will be higher in places far larger value. The "sin 0" term simply enables fair comparisons to be made between ter takes almost a year to complaces on different latitudes.



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heat at a slower rate than the scaled to produce a range from the overall temperatures are mal lagging for anywhere near 100 at extreme continental locations. Values of the scaled figures in Europe include 10 for count, it is striking just how dif-London, 21 for Berlin and 42 for Moscow - which is a fair reflec-

Britain is parked in a particularly fine spot because it lantic Drift (the extension of the Gulf Stream) by which the prebring warm water from Florida 45C lower than average. slowly in our direction (the wa-

land, they provide a sort of ther- zero at the most oceanic sites to higher than might be expected Even taking all this into ac-

ferent climates can be at places at the same latitude. The north tion of the bitter Russian winters. of Scotland, for example, enjoys January temperatures some 20C higher than the world average benefits also from the North At- at the same latitude, while temperatures at certain locations in the south-east of Siberia - again from the sea where A takes a vailing south-westerly winds at the same latitude - may be

It's not just how much sunshine a place receives - it's how plete the journey). So while our well the occans store and spread When all the values of K have maritime climate brings us low- that energy that determines Bu Cartin Brimen

digs in

A good man to know if you're broke

Did his loan to Moscow secure telecom deal?

By Phil Reeves in Moscow

MOSCOW WAS forced to go capin-hand to the American financier, George Soros, last year for a quick-

Mr Soros gave the Russian government a one-week bridging loan of "several hundred million dollars" last June in order to help it pay some of its hefty dehts in back wages.

Although the sum is trifling when compared with the country's \$150bn (£94hn) mostly long-term foreignheld deht (or even its more urgent \$60bn high-interest short-term rouhle borrowings), the loan has raised eyebrows in Moscow's financial circles. It was granted only a month before Mr Soros put up nearly \$1bn to help fund a successful hid for Svyasinvest, one of the most soughtafter and viciously fought-over prizes of Russia's privatisation process.

The sell-off of the telecommunications company has long been shrouded in controversy. It triggered a squabble between the losing bidders and the government. And it was at the centre of a political scandal after it was revealed last November that Anatoly Chubais, Boris Yeltsin's right-hand man and economics guru, and several other officials each accepted \$90,000 advances for an unpublished book from a publishing company linked with Uneximbank, which led the winning consortium.

Three officials were promptly sacked over the scandal by Mr Yeltsin, delivering a blow to Mr Chubais's reformist team from which it has yet fully to recover. "There is obviously no evidence that Mr Soros did anything untoward," said one Western financial analyst in Moscow, "But you have to wonder if his loan may well have a been a sweetener for it overestimates revenues. If this cash

the Svyasinvest deal." Intriguingly, the Russian

ernment approached Mr Scros for a second loan in December, which he declined, arguing that "he didn't want to make a habit of it".

Mr Soros - who has spent \$350m on charitable projects in Rossia in the last decade - said his loan was to bridge a gap before a \$2bn eurobond issue in July. The financier has suggested that the government turned to him because it did not want to undermine the confidence of Western bankers involved in the issue.

But the move is also a measure of the anxiety of the government about the social and political consequences if it failed to do something to ease the massive crisis of unpaid wages and pensions, which have prompted strikes and protests across the country. Mr Yeltsin had set a deadline for paying off pensions of 1 July 1997, raising the possibility that Mr Soros's money was, in fact, used for this purpose.

Sources indicated yesterday that the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which is closely monitoring Russia's finances, was oot informed of the Soros loan. But oeither has it caused its officials great concern.

However, the IMF will be closely watching for further evidence that Russia is discreetly borrowing from Western banks and financiers in order to offset its problems, which include an shortfall in revenues of more than Soon. At the height of the Asian crisis at the end of last year, it quietly borrowed \$950m from Westcan banks, again to meet its wages bill.

Matters are unlikely to improve soon, despite the vote this week by the State Duma (lower house of parliament) to approve a 1998 hudget. Observers say the budget could deepen the non-payments crisis as does not come in the government. will have to start slashing anew.



HE'S not short of a few quid, that George Soros, writes Andrew Buncombe. Even by the standards of the world of high finance, he is considered an exception. He makes a million here, loses a million there. It doesn't really matter, he's always in the black.

And black is certainly an apt colour with which to link Mr Soros.

certainly the one which lodged the speculator in the wider public consciousness - occurred in September 1992, when he bet against Sterling. The then Tory Chancellor Norman Lamont scored one of the financial own goals of the century and Britain lost billions before the Bank of England finally conceeded that it had to devalue the pound. They called it Black Wednesday, but it wasn't a bad day for Scros; he made

In 1993 he was reckoned to be the biggest earner on Wall Street and analysts estimated he makes around £2,500 a minute.

So when the Kremlin fell into financial difficulties last summer and needed a friendly financier to beip them out with a few hundred million pounds or so, Soros was the perfect man.

And all this wealth comes from just betting on the financial markets, guessing which currencies are going to boom and which are going to bust. When to buy, and when to sell. When to invest and when to get out. He makes Gordon Gekko look like and amateur

By general consensus he has set the tool for a new generation of large, professional investors. whn run so-called hedge funds for wealthy clients. It is said markets often hang on his prediciations on the fortunes of gold, silver and shares. An interview he once gave oo Germany's fortunes caused the Mark to fall.

By his own admission, Soros is a gambier, ever short.

IN THE NEWS

GEORGE SOROS

One of his most famous financial coups - and albeit, a very good one. "It just so happens that I play the game better and higger than most peaple," he once said, sitting in the 33rd floor of his New York offices.

But it hasn't always been midtown Manhattan for Mr Soros. He was born in Hungary, and fled as a tecnager when the Nazi's invoded. Budapest was no place for Jewish family. He arrived in Britain at the end of the war, penniless and desparate to build himself a future. He studied at the LSE before moving to New York.

There he tearnt the trade of finance and investmeot and by 1969 Soros, then agd 39, was in a position to start his now famous Quantum offshore fund. He tald potential investors the purpose of the fund was to "enable sophisticated investors to participate io an internationally diversified investment portfolio". By 1972 the fund registered in the Dutch Antilles but run from New York by Soros Fund Management - was worth £20m. These days it's worth about £12billion and Soros ranks as America's 27th richest

He is committed to issues such as Bosnia. the arts, minority rights and democracy. He has foundations in Russia and Eastern Europe which distribute around \$300m dollars a year, the most he was allowed to donate under US tax law.

Soros could be described as a philosopher, a theorist, a philanthropist and a financial genuis, But above all, he's a good man to tap up if you're

MAN WHO BROKE THE BANK

George Soros, worth an estimated £2,500m and one of the world's 150 richest people, is most famously known as the Man who broke the Bank of England. The title came from his actions in September 1992, when he ber against the fortunes of sterling as the chancellor, Norman Lamont, tried to prop up the pound. Britain lost billions as Mir Lamont squandered its gold reserves before tha Bank of England got out the white flag and devalued the currency. The event, which was to cost Mr Lamont his job, was known as Black Wednesday, but it was a marvellous day for Mr Soros, who made more than £600m by speculating against sterling.

AND ALSO LOST MILLIONS

Often overlooked by those chroniding the legendary exploits of Mr Soros is day he day winnings, when the worldwide mar- ey is now worth £10m.

kets tumbled in October 1997. Mr Soros's Quantum Fund alone lost £600m, while five other Soros funds, managed by his right-hand man, Stanley Druckenmiller, lost a similar amount. But, perhaps surprisingly, this was not the first time had lost millions. In 1987 he lost £450m overnight after wrongly predicting there would be a crash in Tokyo and selling up. He shrugged the loss off, taking his wife to a dinner party.

QUANTUM LEAPS AND BOUNDS

Mr Soros's most famous fund is the Quantum Fund, which he launched in 1969 with £4m. It operates by charging clients to invest their money in currency, commodity and interest-rate markets as well as securities and equities. Anyone who invested £7,000 in 1969 and reinvested their iost twice as much as his Black Wednes- dividends will be pleased to learn that their mon-

First performance of the play that was too hot to handle

Not About Nightingales

National Theatre, London

A PIECE of 20th century theatre history took place last night as the National Theatre presented the world premiere of a Tennessee Williams play a work which has never beeo seeo nor even read until now, writes David Lister.

The late author of such emotionally charged classics as A Streetcar Named Desire and Cat On A Hot Tin Roof, who died in 1983, is thought to have written the piece when he was 26, six years before making his name with The Glass Menagerie.

Not About Nightingales was never produced, and does not appear in any of the author's collected works. It was brought to light by Vanessa Redgrave, who read a reference to it in a biography, persuaded the Williams estate to release the manuscript and then approached National Theatre artistic director Trevor Nunn to stage it in a co-production with

her own company. Nunn's staging opeoed last night in the National's small studio theatre, the Cottesloe.



Set in a men's prison, the about a young prisoner who has a poetic sense of himself and play partly concerns homosexwhat he wants to achieve". ual relationships — the probahle reason why American

Trevor Nunn, who directed last night's world premiere, said he had found the work "harrowing." It has, he said, "elements of the style which you would associate with Tennessee

agements were wary.

The play, which emerges as publishers and theatre man- an impassioned plea for justice and humanity, was sparked off by a newspaper report of a prison riot in the Thirties in middle-aged woman in the play which four convicts were bru- appears only for a brief scene. tally murdered.

Nunn has recruited an Anglo-American cast in which Williams, but is not really like Irish actor Finbar Lynch stars appropriate for her to take a Tennessee Williams play. It is as the hero, Canary Jim, opposuch a small role.

site American Sherri Parker Lee and Corin Redgrave. Vanessa's brother, as the prison

Vanessa Redgrave came across a reference to the play in a new hiography about the young Tennessee Williams. She became intrigued and went to New York to urge Williams's long time friend, Maria St Juste, who managed his estate, to release the manuscript.

Maria St Juste, who has since died, had never released the play because she felt that if Williams had not released it in his lifetime he must have had his

However, Ms Redgrave and she had been friends for some time and she agreed to release it to her. The annotated typescript was found among the late playwright's papers, and Ms Redgrave secured the rights for its performance.

The one misfortune for her was that the main female part is a 19-year-old secretary, which she is too old to play. The one Nevertheless, she was keen to play that role, until Trevor Nunn told her it would be in-

Three

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Bride of Wildenstein must pay for surgery

By Marcus Tanner

JOCELYNE Wildenstein, whose addiction to plastic surgery has famously wrought havoc with her face, will have to pay for her own obsession in

That was the verdict of a US judge, ending the bitter divorce battle between Jocelyn and her tember with with his teenage wealthy but publicity-shy art col- girlfriend. Mr Wildenstein will lector ex-husband, Alec Wilden-

"The wife shall be responsible for all elective plastic that comes with 66,000 acres surgery and cosmetic procedures and snan or responsible and taucoing, which has subfor their cost," said Manhattan feel too much out of pocket. His shows she loves to attend. The mitted us to public ridicule".

Diamond.

her own scalpel work, but she will get a slice of her husband's Tokyo. mooey, in the form of \$2.4m maintenance a year and the town house in New York's Upper East Side where she caught her husband in bed last Sepalso have to throw in the 150at Igny, and a ranch in Kenya

and 55 artificial lakes.

Supreme Court Judge Marilyn father, Daniel, is reputed to be judge said Jocelyn Wildenstein the richest art dealer in the also used to spend about \$10m Joceiya may have to pay for world, the judge said, with art a year on jewellery at Cartier. galleries in New York, Paris and

Jocelyne, on the other hand, will have to cut back, and not just on those facial experiments that have given rise to such cruel jibes as "Bride of Wildenstein" (she prefers to think her stretched skin, wide-apart eyes and inflated lips look feline). year-old chateau outside Paris Her oew allowance, which works out at about \$140,000 a month, would scarcely cover the to have cootinuing plastic cost of a single haude countre surgery and hair transplants dress from the Paris fashion and tattooing, which has sub-

Wildenstein fought his wife's financial demands, saying he only earned \$175,000 a year as his father's personal assistant, and owned no real property. He said the ex-couple's houses were owned by his 80-year-old father.

The judge said Wildenstein had never indicated that his wife spent too much, aside from opposing what he called "her hizarra psychological proclivity

Pollution disaster at power station

Environment Correspondent

BRITAIN'S most expensive anti- er station shattered at speed. pollution equipment has broken down after just four years, leading to a surge in emissions of acid-had only tiny cracks others had rain gases from Western spread more than halfway Europe's largest power station. through inch-thick steel. The Now National Power is seeking structures carry vast stresses, each permission to run its Drax pow-

fume-cleaning plant out of action. The £640m flue gas desulphurisation (FGD) equipment removes about 90 per cent of the sulphur dioxide from the 4,000 megawatt coal-fired station's exhaust fumes. The gas is a leading air pollutant and a major contributor to acid rain, which damages forests and buildings.

the next few months with its

The shut down is due to cracks in the 12 fans, each 15 if it carries on burning coal. feet across, which hlow the hot gases through six FGD units.

emergency checks made after a similar fan at an Italian pow-

Inspectors found all of Drax's fans were failing, but while some weighing 11 tons and spinning at er station near York for at least 10 revolutions per second.

All the fans, built by Howdens in Belfast, will now have to be replaced, which may take two years and will cost millions.

Under its authorisation - or licence to pollute - from the Government's Environment Agency, Drax can produce 100,000 tons of sulphur dioxide a year. But with the FGD out of action, the power station will break this limit by mid-summer

National Power has applied

They were discovered during annual emission levels up to 270,000 tons. The agency has not yet decided whether to grant this, but has asked the company to explain how it will get the FGD equipment repaired as fast as possible.

The company said it was vital that Drax was allowed to carry on working. "The fact is, that even with the FGD out of action, it is still one of the two cleanest coal-fired power stations in Britain," a spokesman said. It is a modern, high-efficiency plant using low-sulphur coal from the nearby Selby pit. The only other British power station with FGD is PowerGen's Ratcliffe on Soar plant in Nottinghamshire.

Don Ridley, the Environment Agency manager handling the Drax shutdown, accepted this argument for keeping Drax running. "But we also want to ensure pollution is minimised," he said.



Women united: Somalian-born supermodel Waris Dirie, United Nations special ambassador on fernale genital mutilation, launching the UN-led Face to Face campaign for women's equal rights yesterday in London. She was a victim of genital mutilation at the age of five Photograph Rui Xavier

Han otana

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University relief as cuts reversed

ACADEMICS won a reprieve yesterday as funding chiefs announced increased hudgets for the vast majority of universities.

All but 24 of England's universities and colleges of higher education will get a real-terms increase in grant, and no institution will be cut by more than one per cent next year, the Higher Education Funding Council for England said.

Professor Brian Fender, HEFCE chief executive, said the £3.8bn budget represented a 2.7 per cent increase on the current year, slightly above

The allocations would limit cuts in funding per student to one per cent: significantly better than the 35 per cent fall absorbed by universities over the past eight years. "Some movewe would describe it," he said.

The allocations include proceeds from the £1,000-a-year tuition fees to be imposed on undergraduates for the first time in October.

Vice chancellors welcomed the announcement, but warned the settlement did nothing to meet Sir Ron Dearing's recommendation that an extra £200m should be ploughed into improvements to university buildings and equipment.

Diana Warwick, chief execntive of the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals, said: "While this is a welcome step in the right direction for England, there is a long way to go in addressing the financial crisis still facing universities and colleges."

Lecturers praised funding chiefs for limiting the cuts, but warned of the effects on the 24 universities and colleges facing

a fall in income in real terms. Institutions facing a slight realterms cut include Oxford, Manchester and the London School of Economics.

An LSE spokeswoman said: "It's really not very good, but it's a lot better than we thought it was going to be."

David Triesman, general secretary of the Association of University Teachers, said: "The universities are hanging on by their finger nails. We recognise a serious effort is being made to inject stability but it remains a constant problem while all the hig policy decisions for higher education are on ice."

Professor Fender said he hoped the Government's fundamental spending review would yield extra money for universities in future years.

The total number of university places funded will rise by 6,000 to 738,000 next year; universities will learn later this month whether their numbers can increase.

But Professor Fender said he had no details about how many people would enter university as part of Prime Minister Tony Blair's pledge to offer 500,000 extra university and college places by 2002.

"We have been arguing for a fair share of these 500,000 places, but they certainly cannot be offered on the cheap: we will need this to be fully fund-

This year's allocations will not affect college fees, which channel an extra £35m into Oxford and Cambridge. The HEFCE had sent a confidential report to ministers, and was awaiting a decision on the issue. Professor Fender said.

Last week it emerged that Tony Blair had backed down over plans to cut the extra Oxbridge grant.

Peers block move for cheap medicine

By Colin Brown

Chief Political Correspondent

PEERS last night stopped the Government from launching a court challenge which could have given supermarkets the right to sell non-prescription drugs, such as headache pills and cough mixture, at cut

ASDA, the supermarket chain, accused the peers of ignoring consumers' interests and warned they "could legally enshrine price-fixing by manufacturers on everyday medicines and vitamins".

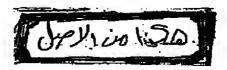
The Consumers' Association attacked the Lords' decision as a "tax on the infirm" and said it would mean people would continue paying inflated prices for over-the-counter

The defeat - the third for the Government in a week - came during the final stages of the . Commons.

Competition Bill when a crossparty amendment was aproved by 138 to 81to stop the Office of Fair Trading challenging resale price maintenance on over-the-counter medicines in the retrictive prac-

The President of the Board of Trade, Margaret Beckett. could seek to overturn the defeat in the Commons, but the Government now faces a dilemma. Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, and a group of 133 Labour MPs are backing the pharmacists, who warn they will be forced out of business if supermarkets are allowed to slash the price of non-prescription drugs.

The community pharmacy action group has been successful in the Lords, and will be stepping up its efforts to prevent the Government reversing the vote with its majority in the



Nasa spacecraft detects water on the Moon



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the stars

By Charles Arthur Science Editor

said last night

YES, there is water on the

tonnes of it, dispersed over

25,000 square miles at the satel-

lite's poles, the US space agency

amounts beneath the surface,

Nasa's Lunar Prospector

equivalent of the Equator) and Mars declared dead (by the Viking landers).

People who wanted us to set up permanent bases oo both those bodies were turned back from their grand plans, as others asked: why spend billions of dollars or pounds of public mooey to go to places which are so hostile, and useless?

In the past 18 mouths though, Mars has been declared to have had life (at least, scieotists reckoned so) and oow the Moon to

Suddenly, space travel is back on the agenda. For not only does the Mooo have water at its poles, but planetary geologists

least two litres a day to survive. However, carrying it out of the Earth's gravitational field is very expensive because it is heavy and can't be compressed: two litres of water will always take up two litres of space and weigh two kilograms. Raising that out

set up a permanent base in spacecraft's instruments) is rel-

Moon: 11 million to 330 million it 18 months ago, when its sci-In contrast to the bullish spircutists said that they had found fossil evidence of life on Mars, Nasa was restrained yesterday. It said the ice is distributed in "scattered pockets", meaning craft has found that water, in the its usefulness is "not immediform of ice, is present in huge atcly clear. While the evidence of water ice is quite strong, the

which could make it possible to water signal (detected by the tively weak," said William Feldman, a Department of Euergy researcher. Our data are consistent with the presence of water ice in very low concentrations across a significant number of craters."

The question will be how easy it is to "mine" the ice and turn it into water, then into its constituent hydrogen and oxy- square miles, and about 35ft haps from comets which

gen. Speaking at Nasa's Ames deep. That's a lot of water." crashed there. The \$65m Research Ceotre in Moffet Most of it is at the lunar north (£41m) Lunar Prospector. Field, California, chief investigator Alan Binder said: "If you

picked up a cubic yard of soil in the cold areas of the pole, you might find a much as ooc, two, maybe five gallons of water per cubic yard. If ... we are probably dry. dealing with 100 million metric tonnes, that's equivalent to a lake two miles on a side, four

pole, where 18,000 square miles are reckoned to be water-bearing, compared to 7,200 square miles at the south pole. Since the Apollo landings 1969-72, scientists thought the Moon was

Last year the Clementine mission found evidence sug-

Isunched in January, marked Nasa's first return to the Moon since the last manned landing mission, Apollo 17, in 1972.

Lunar Prospector carried instruments to detect alpha particles, gamma rays and neutrons, with a radar experiment. The data meant scientists gesting water at the poles - per- could analyse the lunar surface's composition and pinpoint grav-

spacecraft will spend the rest of a permanent Moon complex. year mapping the Moon's surface. When it runs out of fuel, it will crash into the Moon, so as not to become a hazard to fu-

ture missions. If water can be mined on the Moon, it would ease the oeed of sending a supply from Earth. Water weighs 2kg per litre - the minimum daily requirement for a human - and it could take

ity and magnetic features. The thousands of gallons to maintain

The presence of water could also enable astronauts to make their own breathing oxygen and to use the Moon as sort of a space-based filling station. Water can be split into its compooents, hydrogeo and oxegen. Oxygen could be used for breathing and the combination of hydrogen and oxygen can be

Picture: David Hardy

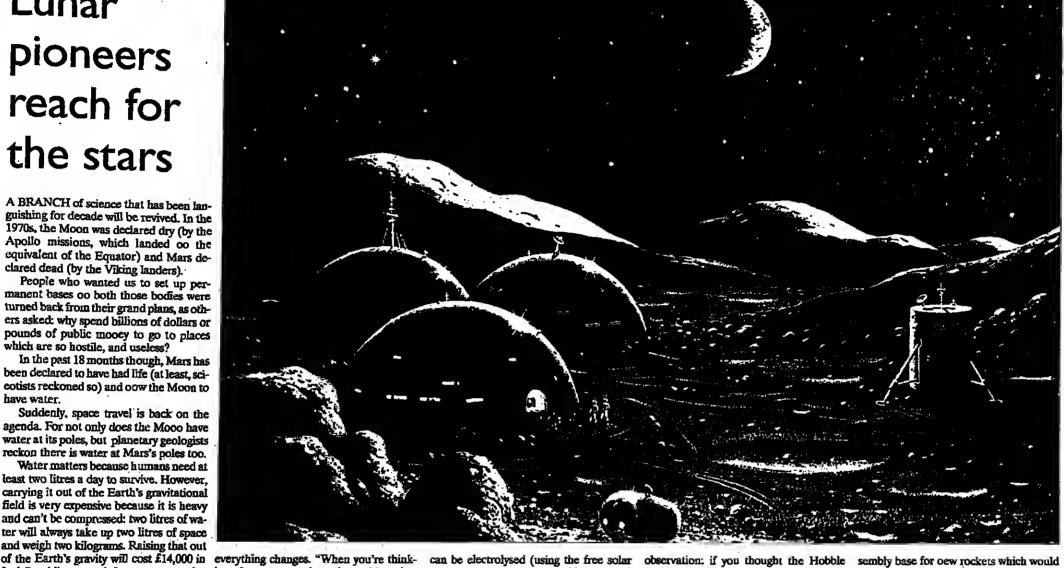
Science Photo Library

Dream on: Lunar pioneers reach for

A BRANCH of science that has been languishing for decade will be revived. In the 1970s, the Moon was declared dry (by the Apollo missions, which landed oo the

reckon there is water at Mars's poles too. Water matters because humans need at

But if there is water already there,



" said Dr Ellen Stofa ships and that makes a base on a dry Moon scientist who is planning studies for water

on Mars Ice can be melted for drinking, and it It would be a perfect site for astronomical.

fuel. Providing enough for a permanent lu- ing of a permanent hunar base, this makes power) into oxygen for breathing, and hy- Space Telescope produced impressive pic- take off for more distant targets: initially ogen as a focket filel

"It's terribly exciting in terms of potential, as a science base if nothing else."

Mars, but in time even further affeld. A low-gravity base would be an ideal

Leshest

rocket to the Mooo partly-fuelled, or even partly-built; then you could finish building it in low gravity. "Anything that we don't have to lift out of the Earth's gravity is a saving," said Dr Stofan.

Man on the moon: An artist's

further into space.

impression of how a permanent Junar base might look. Such a base could be used to build and launch rockets, allowing man to go even

A further advantage is that if something goes wrong, it's easier to escape from the Moon than from a mission to Mars, "It's only three days away," explained Dr Stofan. "You can bail out more easily - it's a whole different thing if you're eight or nine mooths out."

How soon will it arrive, and how big will it be? That depends oo how easy it is to build reliable shelters - safe from meteorites and to mine the ice. Certainly, by the middle of the next century there will be something permanent there.

How much will it cost? Certainly, hillions. "It will take an international effort." said Dr Stofan, *But I think that's the way everybody would want to do it." However. she doesn't see it supplanting the present efforts to build an International Space Statioo to replace the aging Mir. "The space station is the first step in working outside the Earth's atmosphere," said Dr Stofan. "But you have to do it slowly. We've oever tried to build anything in space. People forget how complex it is: they see Star Trek on TV and think 'Oh, we're there already'. But it's oot the science value that peo- staging post on the way to other planets. Really, it's much more complicated, and we ple see. The Moon could be used as an as- For instance, a Mars mission could send its have to do it one step at n time."

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PROFESSIONAL

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Navy hit by broadside over buying endangered wood

Environment Correspondent

THE MINISTRY of Defence has bought hundreds of tonnes of endangered Brazilian mahogany from a company involved in illegal logging, the eovironmental pressure group Frieods of the Earth alleges.

The tough, dark hardwood from the Amazon rainforests is becoming ever scarcer. While logging companies routinely flout Brazil's own laws and cootrols oo the trade, there is hardly any regrowth because mahogany is very difficult to grow io plantations.

Yesterday, the MoD admitted it had purchased more than 200 tonnes of the tropical tim-

told yesterday.

Mass killer buried

lover under patio

A FORMER Broadmoor inmate and

mass killer murdered his lover and buried

her under a patio, then shot himself, an

inquest at Windsor's coroner's court was

Paul Beecham, 55, killed Rita Rid-

diesworth with a single blow to the head,

buried her in the garden and told her sons

she had gone to visit a friend. Two weeks lat-

er he was found dead at the home they shared

in Bracknell, Berkshire. East Berkshire

coroner Robert Wilson recorded a verdict

that Mrs Riddlesworth, 51, was unlawfully

Beecham, sent to Broadmoor in 1969

for the manslaughter of his mother, father,

leased in 1985. He met Mrs Riddlesworth

grandfather and grandmother, was re-

through the League of Friends in 1981.

Sex abuse inquiry

Lincolnshire police have launched a ma-

jor investigation into allegations of inde-

cency at three children's homes in the

county. The inquiry will centre on alle-

gations of indecency at the homes between

Police began their operation at the re-

quest of Lincolnshire Social Services. The

ioquiry revolves around the activities of

staff who are no longer employed by the

the mid 1980's and mid 1990's.

killed and Beecham committed suicide.

"conclusive" evidence that it tracted illegally. It admitted that it relied on its supplier's declaration that the wood was produced legally, rather than carrying out its own checks.

The ministry declined to say exactly why the Navy oeeded mahogany, what ships it would be used for, and why oak - the traditional shipbuilding timber - from sustainable sources in Britain could oot be used instead.

"It's very durable and workahle, and we use it only for refurbishing decking and sheeting," said a spokesman.

But the British government's own view is that the mighty ma-

ber, but said it had seen no hogany is in trouble. That is why it pressed last year for exports had been cut down and ex- to be controlled under the Convention on the Trade in Endangered Species - even though Britain is one of the world's

biggest importers. Friends of the Earth have sent a report on the illegal logging to the Secretary of State for Defence, George Robertson, following a nine-month investigatioo in Brazil during which both timber shipments and documents were tracked from forests and Indian reserves.

The MoD's supplier was a UK company, Parker Kislingbury, which in turn purchased the timber from a major Brazilian timber tradery.

Frieods of the Earth say

New beginning for

transfer oext week to the Humberside

force, which investigated her employers.

was suspended on full pay for two years

pending disciplinary charges brought by

Inspector Cydena Fleming (pictured)

police inspector

their investigation found the Brazilian firm had taken thousands of tonnes more mahogany from forests than it was entitled to under authorisations from the Brazilian environment agency.

Parker Kislingbury's managing director, Ole Salven, insisted his firm had done all it reasonably could to ensure the mahogany was extracted legally. "We've shown due diligence," he said.

FoE rainforest campaigner Sarah Tyack said: "Illegal logging is rife and the whole certification system is completely flakey."

Given the illegality that surrounds the trade, the MoD should not take any mahogany

from Brazil at all, she added.

Prescott's Jag gets green replacement

JAGUAR is replacing John Prescott's £35,000 ministerial car with a P-registered model that can be converted to liquid gas to underline his commitment to green transport policies.

The Deputy Prime Minister last night told MPs that Jaguar had been unable to convert his ministerial Jag but had agreed to replace it at no extra cost to the taxpayer.

The car will be one of only two Jaguars in the country which are converted to take gas power. The car is secondhand, and was used by Jaguar as a test vehicle. He is hoping to take delivery of the car

very shortly and is certain to be hoping to have the keys in time for the Chancellor's Budget on 17 March, which is ex-A FEMALE police officer who brought pected to contain higher taxes on "gas a successful victimisation case against Linguzzlers". coinshire Police has resigned and will

On the run again

TEENAGER Peter Kerry, who hit the headlines in 1995 when he ran away to Lincolnshire Police after she was caught Malaysia with his father's passport and

trying to secretly tape-record colleagues. credit card, has gone missing again. An industrial tribunal condemned se-This trip could cost him a scholarship nior police officers for a "deplorable" atto a top public school worth oearly titude to equality, and all charges against £30,000 over two years. Harrow school, Inspector Fleming were dropped. Two days in north London, where Peter, 17, woo a ago she arrived at Lincolnshire HQ to reegive back her warrant card and uniform, to forfeit the award when he returns.

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Watchdog accuses mobile-phone firms of rip-off

By Glenda Cooper Social Affairs Correspondent

CONSUMERS who call mobile phones are being ripped off with high prices, the telephone watchdog Oftel said yesterday. Its directorgeneral, Don Cruickshank said he wanted to see the cost of calls from fixed lines to mobiles slashed by more than a third, from 32p to 20p.

He has referred British Telecom works, Vodafone and Cellnet, to the own mobile phones. Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The networks stand to lose £200m a year if the MMC agrees with Oftel. "Vodafone, Cellnet and BT are using their control of this bottleneck and their market

power to charge customers too much," said Mr Cruickshank, "I think it is fair lo say being ripped off is the right phrase.

He hoped the MMC would use the opportunity to look at pricing of mobiles as a whole. Around 5 billion minutes are spent on mobile phones every year and the number is growing by 40 per cent. In January the networks revealed record connections in the run-up to Christand the two biggest mobile net- mas and currently 8 million people

The networks argue that the cost of calls was reduced from 37p to 32p last October hut Mr Cruickshank said it had been "progress under duress" and it was not enough. While local day calls now cost 3.5p

6.7p, calls to mobile phones cost 32p. To the ordinary consumer that indead right," Mr ,Cruickshank added. "What worries people, for example, is when they have made a five-minute call to a plumber or a friend for a quick chat, and they then get a bill for around £2.30." At the moment the customer is charged 32p for a minute's call to a mobile from a fixed line. Of that 19p goes

and discount. Oftel says that it should be reduced to 20p, with Vodafone getting 13p and BT 4p. They feel there is no justification for BT charging sig-

to Vodafone or Cellnet and 6.9p to

BT The rest is accounted for by VAT

not making any effort to generate. that the company would co-operate my would be giving "constructive This is husiness that the advertising with the MMC investigation hut support to the MMC review but stinctively looks wrong, and they are This is husiness that the advertising campaigns of companies like Vodafone and Orange are generating," said Mr Cruickshank, "Quite why BT's take should be higher for calling to mobile phones than fixed lines escapes me."

Yesterday's announcement follows an 18-month investigation by Oftel into charges made from a mohile phone to a landline. The study found British customers are paying some of the highest charges in the on customers when calls to their mo-

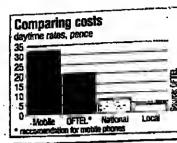
per minute and national calls cost nificantly more for a mobile than a diverted to another number. A great," Securicor, 40-per-cent sharelandline. "This is business BT are spokesman for BT said yesterday added: "We emphatically reject the suggestion that we are ripping off hy justified". callers. "The major component of the price charged to our customers is what we have to pay the mobile to all mobile networks, including

> Vodafone, said: "Competition is the next two years. best form of regulation and the UK. with four mobile phone operators, prices paid by customers, including is the most competitive market in the cost of handsets, line rental and Europe ... We believe the reference call charges, put Britain in the top world. Cellnet and Vodafone were to the MMC was not necessary, as of the world league for business cusalso singled out for charges imposed the gap between the actual rate of decline of the cost of calls to mo- dential users remained less bile phones go unanswered or are biles and Oftel's target is not that · competitive.

holder in Cellnet, said the compaconsidered that its rates were "ful-Mr Cruickshank said he would

like to see uniform prices for all calls companies for delivering the call. . smaller operators like Orange and Chris Gent, chief executive of One2One, introduced within the

But he added that the overall tomers, although prices for resi-



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	Full price	Excluding tax	Tarthe sile arten
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Mardi Gra hunt has cost £1 m

By Jason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

SCOTLAND YARD has spent more than £1m hunting the Mardi Gra bomber, who struck for the 33rd time on Wednesday when a package exploded investigation so far and that an firing shotgun pellets into a offender profile had been obteenager's leg.

A psychologist has provided the police with an "offender profile" of the extortionist in an attempt to obtain clues into his son who is sophisticated enough character and motivation. De- to put together the devices and tectives hope the use of a has evaded detection for many profiler, made famous by the months. Although no one has help open up new lines of inquiry. There is also speculation that the police may be trying set up a dialogue with the offender. possibly through personal adverts in a newspaper.

The vast amount of money being spent by the Metropolitan Police on trying to uncover the self-styled Mardi Gra terrorist shows the growing concern that someone could be seriously maimed or killed by one of his home-made explosive devices.

The danger was illustrated in the most recent incident on Wednesday night in which a device containing a shotgun cartridge exploded outside a The second most recent attack Sainsbury's store in Forest Hill, was on 12 February near the Forsouth-east London, injuring a est Hill store. The motorist in-17-year-old youth.

was targeted when a motorist had picked it up after he saw it suffered shock after a small de- unattended near the store. A vice, hidden in a plastic bag he week earlier, a device exploded had found near the supermarket, exploded in his car.

The 17-year-old suffered wounds to his leg, although the should call the police confiinjuries were not serious. A spokeswoman for Scotland Yard

said: "Officers have examined the device and by the way it is constructed can confirm it is the work of the Mardi Gra bomber."

A senior Scotland Yard source confirmed that more than £1m had been spent on the tained. He said: "Profiling can give us a range of options and a range of motivations."

He added: "[This is] a per-Cracker television series, will been killed so far, that's more by luck than design."

Profiling has had mixed success, although usually it can only provide extra clues rather than unveiling the name of the criminal.

The Mardi Gra bomber is clearly very skillful at leaving few clues. This has lead to speculation that he - or at an outside chance, she - is a former or serving police officer, or member of the security services.

The bomber began in 1994 and first targeted Barclays Bank and moved to Sainsbury's in 1996. It is believed he has already struck three times this year. volved threw the bag out of his Last month, the same store car in shock after it exploded. He at a hus stop near a Sainsbury's in Ealing. No one was hurt.

Anyone with information dential hotline on 0800 789321.

Nuclear fuel firm to sponsor Scouts

ENVIRONMENTAL camrying the logo of the country's nuclear power company.

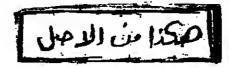
British Nuclear Fuels needed to earn the hadge. (BNFL) announced that it is to pay the Scout Association £30,000 over three years in return for its name to be carried on the popular scientist's badge.

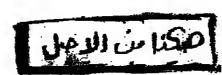
But Friends of the Earth criticised the plans as a "cynical" exercise and an attempt to cash in on the scouts' good image. Tony Juniper, FoE campaigns director, said: "This is the which finds itself fielding fierce an advantage through relativeis the most cynical PR one can

As part of the deal, scouts paigners have attacked a spon- will be given access to BNFL's sorship deal which will see scientists, laboratories and visscouts' proficiency badges car- itor centre at Sellafield nuclear power station in Cumbria to help them complete the tasks

> John Fogg, spokesman for the Scout Association, said the movement's founder, Lord Baden-Powell, would have approved because of his interest in new technology. "As far as BNFL itself is concerned, we do not have a view or judgment that is adverse about this organisation.

Ann Johnson, spokeswoman typical strategy of a company for BNFL said: "Our involvement with the project not only public criticism and turns to a chables us to offer something to cash-strapped good cause to buy young people in the community but also may well encourage ly small amounts of money. It some of them to think about science and engineering as a future career."







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di Grahas film

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FRIDAY 6 MARCH 1998

THE INDEPENDENT

Lords to study cannabis risks

By Anthony Bevins Political Editor

THE scientific risks of taking cannabis for medical and recreational purposes are to be examined by a Lords

investigation, it was annuunced yesterday. Lord Perry of Walton, who said the committee of peers had agreed not to discuss whether any of them had taken the drug, told a press conference the investigation was nni expected to result in a call for legalisation. But it would offer an in-

formed scientific assessment of the halance of risks relating to the drug. The inquiry by the Lords Committee on Science and Technology, half of whose members are medically qualified, will be advised by Leslie Iverson, visiting Professor of Pharmacology at Oxford University, who specialises in the effects of drugs on the brain. The two key questions to he addressed are: "How strong is the scientific evidence in favour of permitting medical use?" and "How strong is the scientific evidence in favour of maintaining prohibition of recreational

Lord Perry, a Liberal Democrat peer who is a former Professor of Pharmacology and founding vice-chancellur of the



Perry: Silent on tastes of the committee members

Open University, said: "The recreational use of alcohol and tobacco are attached by risks. There is no ban on either at the "The question then arises, at

what level of risk should people be allowed to make their own judgment about whether they're prepared in take that risk? It's a questinn of whether the risks that are obtained in evidence are regarded as sufficient to warrant a government ban, or whether they are risks that individuals might be expected to take for themselves - like tobacco, like alcohol, like any of the things, like coffee, like tea. They're all drugs that have

Asked what drugs he took to cannahis?

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himself, Lord Perry said: "We did discuss this in committee and decided that what we took was private." When pressed, he said be did drink coffee and tea, and occasionally drank alcohol, but did not smoke tobacco.

The committee had discussed cannabis and members' personal use of it. "We decided not to make public ... that that was not a matter we were going to make public." The committee, which will take written submissions as well as evidence in public sessions, starts its hearings with the Advisory Council on Misuse of Drugs on 7 April, with evidence later in April to be taken from the British Medical Association and the authors of its report on therapeutic use of cannabis; the Alliance for Cannabis Therapeutics; and the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Evidence is to be sought on a number of questions, including: "What are the physiological effects (immediate, long-term and cumulative) of taking cannabis, in its various forms? What are the psychological effects? How do these effects vary with particular methods of preparation and administration? To what extent is cannabis addictive? To what extent do users develop tolerance



Starting over: Student John Busby being tutored by Richard Maitland at the Second Chance School in Leeds yesterday

Photograph: Guzelian

School gives young a second chance to learn

Education Correspondent

BRITAIN'S first school for young people who missed out on education of them have no qualifications by the was opened yesterday by David Blun-

The Second Chance School in and 25 catch up with skills designed to improve their chances of getting a job. have a "nation-wide influence".

Ministers hope similar projects will develop in another 17 cities.

Mr Blunkett said: "In the past we failed many of our youngsters; 45,000 time they leave school. There will alkett, Secretary of State for Education. ways be a need for people to learn and relearn. School failure can be a life sen-Leeds will help 300 people between 16 tence to unemployment and poverty."

He said he hoped the project would

The European Commissioner for Universities should review their adscience and research, Edith Cresson, was also at the launch and said that 10 to 15 per cent left school in the EU without basic literacy skills, "This need is a real one and we're trying to find a way to answer it," she added.

Keith Hall, 23, who is unemployed. is one of the first students. He said: "My schooling wasn't up to scratch. It was terrible and the system failed me."

missions to give more apportunities to people without traditional qualifications, Baroness Blackstone, education minister, told vice chancellors at a conference in London yesterday

Lady Blackstone told the conference, sponsored by The Independent: "We want higher education to offer more opportunities later in life for those who missed out first time."



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Tory old guard under fire over hunting Bill

By Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

FIVE former cabinet ministers, attacked yesterday as the "tired old guard" of the Tory party, will today lead the moves to stop the private member's Bill banning they would prefer to see it fox-hunting.

Douglas Hogg, the former agriculture minister, who was vilified by the farmers over the BSE crisis during his term of ofamendments of his own which will slow progress on the antihunting Bill to a snail's pace.

Michael Heseltine, the former deputy prime minister, who led the charge against the Bill's and Sir Brian Mawhinney in tabling amendments.

Tony Blair will be in Scotland today for a keynote speech to the will then seek to attach a ban

will not be in the House to support the Bill by Mike Foster, the Labour MP for Worcester. In spite of the massive vote in support of the Bill, government sources have made no secret that stopped before it reaches the Lords, where it would threaten the main jegislative programme.

The Government's embarrassment over the Bill has been fice, has tabled 124 separate heightened following last week's countryside march in London, which forced a series of pre-emptive concessions on countryside issues.

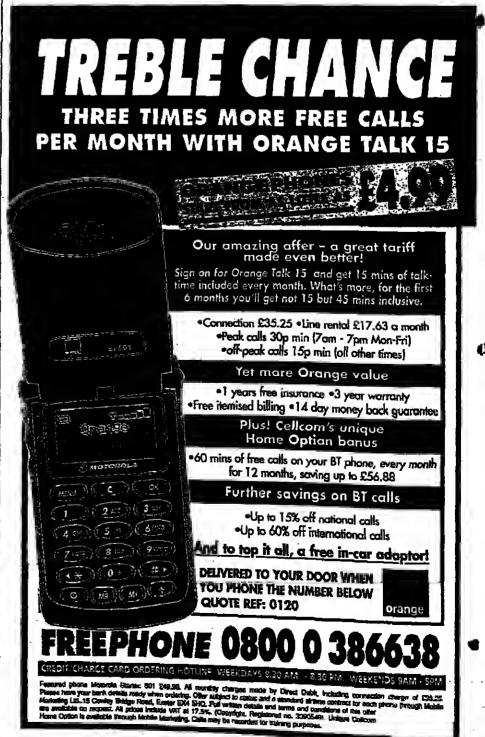
Mr Foster's Bill is likely to survive a full day of debate tosecond reading, has been joined day but is expected to be killed by John MacGregor, Tom King next Friday through lack of parliamentary time. Home Office ministers are

party conference in Perth, and on fox-hunting to the Government's Crime and Disorder Bill in the next session.

To head off that threat, there is increasing support within the Government for a ban on fox-hunting to be subjected to an independent cross-party inquiry by two select committees home affairs and agriculture.

Both pro- and anti-hunting groups delivered have petitions to Downing Street, each signed by more than a million people. Faced with such strong emotions, Mr Blair is expected to support any move which can put the hunters and their opponents in the long grass.

Mr Foster said: "The type of people that are looking to block the Bill are the old guard; they're yesterday's politicians and there's a vast difference bealarmed that anti-hunting MPs tween the politics of today ... and pre-1 May."







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Solutions for a small planet

Doctors give rare good news for meat eaters

By Jeremy Laurance Health Editor

RED-MEAT eaters breathed a sigh uf relief yesterday when the Government watered down an earlier warning about the risk of cancer.

In an embarrassing turnaround, ministers issued new scientific advice that the largest meat eaters, consuming 140 grams or more a day, should cut down but that those eating the average amount of 90 grams a day need not change. People eating less than the average amount should not reduce their consumption because they may not get enough iron and other nutrients.

Last September, ministers published advice that even average meat eaters should "consider a reduction", after an extraordinary row among the members of the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food and Nutritinn Policy (Coma) which had been preparing a report on the subject for more than two years. That annuuncement triggered a storm of protest from the beleaguered meat industry which claimed that the advice had no scientific basis.

It has emerged that scientists on the committee could not agree the precise wording of the report leaving Frank

Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, in the awkward position of having to change the advice. A panel set up by Coma lo examine the link between meat cating and colon cancer concluded that the people consuming over 140 grams a day should cut down.

However, just before publication, Professor Philip James - a member of Coma but not of the panel, and the instigator of the Food Standards Agency -warned ministers that the advice was confusing and weak.

Professor James is also a member of the World Cancer Research Fund, which recommended an upper limit of 80 grams of red meat a day in a report released on the same day as the Coma advice last year. He argued that if the "danger" level was set at 140 grams a day that could encourage average meat eaters consuming 90 grams a day to increase their consumption.

Mr Dobson, worried about being seen as soft on consumer issues, halted printing of the report and ordered the committee to re-draft its advice which it did in the absence of the panel. The result was much stronger advice which was issued as a press release on 25 September

but without the full report. Problems arose when the

panel, led by Alan Jackson of Southampton University, was asked to ratify the new advice that had been issued in its absence. It refused to do so because, it said, it was not

justified by the scientific evi-

dence. This led to the new, modified, version published yesterday with the full report.

The report, "The Nutritional Aspects of the Development of Cancer", looks at all aspects of the diet and rec-

ommends eating more fruit, vegetables and fibre and avoiding getting fat. It also warns that high doses of vitamin and mineral supplements could be risky and recommends avoid-

ing beta-carotene supplements

which have been linked with an increased risk of lung cancer.

It says the finding on betacarotene "raises the possibility that a change in the usual balance of caretenoids in the diet might lead to potentially

resulted in yesterday's revised Photograph: David Rose guidance WEIGHT WATCHING

Chewed over: Differences of opinion

among health experts and protests

from the meat industry after

publication of the original advice

THE Coma recommendations apply to red meat (beef, pork, lamb) but not to poultry and the quantities quoted are the cooked weight (meat loses weight during cooking). People eating more than 140 grams 2 day (5oz) - about one in six of the population - should cut down. One hundred and forty grams of cooked meat is approximately 200 grams raw.

Ham sandwich Bacon (two rashers) Pork pie (small) Quarterpounder hamburger Roast beef (three slices) Spaghetti bolognese Sausages (3-4) Sreak (medium 6-7 oz)

absorption, metabolism or

function. Such findings caution

against the widespread use of

moderate to high-dose mi-

50g 60g 90g 90g 90g 140g 170g

adverse perturbations in their be without adverse effects." Sir Kenneth Calman, Chief a matter of personal choice but it is important that people have cronutrient supplements, the information they need to dewhich cannot be assumed to cide what they want to eat."



Heart pill linked to suicide risk By Jeremy Laurance A COMMON drug prescribed for heart problems may increase the risk of depression and suicide, doctors have A study in Sweden has shown that suicide rates are fere with neurones and recepbigher among patients taking calcium channel blockers prescribed for angina (chest pain) and high blood pressure. In one part of the study, involving a survey of 152 Swedish municipalities with a total popsearchers found a five-fold increase in suicides among those taking calcium channel blockers compared with other treatments for high blood pressure. In absolute terms this meant SOUTHWESTERN BELL one extra suicide a year for

every 1,000 people taking the In the past, several groups of

heart drugs have been linked to depression. Dr Anne Melander and colleagues of Malmo University Hospital, suggest in the British Medical Journal that one reason for the higher suicide rate in men observed in many Western countries could be that they have more beart disease and are therefore more

likely to be prescribed heart drugs, and in particular calcium channel blockers.

Calcium channel blockers penetrate the blood hrain harrier more easily than other heart drugs and "hence they have access to and may intertors involved in the regulation of mood," the researchers say. The drugs should be considered a possible cause of depression

and suicide. The study is the latest to ring alarm bells about calcium chanbeen linked to a higher risk of heart attack in some patients. Those concerns were attributed to the early policy of giving high initial doses which were not tulerated well by patients with weak hearts. The new policy is to step up the dose mure slowly over a longer period which ap-

pears to carry less risk. Doubts remain however. and the current issue of the New England Journal of Medicine says that in the light of them. calcium channel blockers should be used as a second-line treatment only where other drugs, such as diuretics or betablockers, are unsuitable or have

Drug testing ignores women

By Jeremy Laurance

MORE women take medicines than men at every stage of life yet drugs are tested on almost exclusively male groups, a report says today.

The sex hias against women in drug testing is reflected throughout the National Health Service which tends to focus on male concerns even though women are its main users.

The poor health care given to women is highlighted in the report which says £1bn a year could be saved if the needs of those aged over 45 were better understood. It says more attention

should be given to heart disease, often seen as an exclusively male condition, and screening for hreast cancer, currently offered to women aged 50-64, should be extended to those of 65 and over.

The report by the Pennel Initiative, set up last year to raise awareness of the bealth needs of older women and funded by the drug company Wyeth, says the results of drug trials in men are often generalised to women although they may not affect them in the same way.

In the pre-menopausal age group, almost one-quarter of women take medicines, excluding the contraceptive pill, compared with one in six mcn. Post-menopause, more than half of women take them compared with more than one in three men.

"Development of new drugs should specifically take account of the characteristics of women. particularly older women and those from ethnic minorities."

Dame Rennie Fritchie, chair of the initiative, said: "Society thinks that women have a sellby date of between 50 and 55. Women become more and more invisible as they get older and they don't have a voice. However, many of the things that affect women could be altered. By speaking out on their behalf it could make a real difference."

The report says most research into coronary heart disease is curried out on men and then generalised to women, even though it is the biggest cause of death among women over 45.

It also says women over 45 are twice as likely to suffer from depression as men of the same



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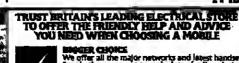
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Doctor's boyfriend 'was like a

timebomb'

THE murdered doctor Joan Diedrick's counsel, Ronald Francisco was warned that her alleged killer, Tony Diedrick, was "a walking time bomb", the High Court heard yesterday.

Ms Prancisco's elder sister Celia said that she wrote a warning letter to her in December 1988, six years before the 27year-old gynaecologist was found strangled with a vacuum cleaner cord at her flat in St John's Wood, north-west London.

Celia, 33, who is based in the United States, wrote that she had heard some very disturbing things from their mother about Joan's then boyfriend - "the infamous Tone" - and an incident with a broken light-bulb.

It went on: "It seems to me he is a walking time bomb and honey, your time is running out. Don't forget he is from an extremely [underlined] violent background which has obviously had a lasting effect upon him, plus the incident with his girlfriend's nose. So why shouldn't he burt you? It seems to be in his nature."

should count herself lucky that the glass didn't catch her eyes. "Is the end of your medical career worth it for Tony Diedrick?

... does company and convenience outweigh the possibility of serious disablement? Think about it." Celia added that Joan was attractive, intelligent and articulate and should not sell herself short.

The letter, which was found among Ms Francisco's property after her death, was read out in court after Mr Justice Allion rejected objections by Mr

Ry David Lister Arts News Editor

A HAIRLINE crack has been

discovered on The Three Graces, the world's most expensive sculpture, while it was on an overseas

loan to a Madrid benefactor, mnseem officials confirmed today.

Madrid from Edinburgh. It was

of one of the women, when the

group was being inspected under strong lighting upon its arrival.

The work was on loan to Baron Heinrich Thyssen-

Bornemisza, who gave £800,000

towards its purchase. It is joint-

ly owned by the National Mu-

seums of Scotland and the Victoria and Albert Museum in

The discovery alarmed both

rushed out to Madrid when they

heard the news: And Richard

Cook, its specialist conservator,

travelled back with the sculpture

to Edinburgh in a truck to mon-

itor its condition. But the mu-

have always been present

The "very small fault", not visible to the naked eye, was discovered last November when the Thwaites QC.

Mr Diedrick, 38, who allegedly stalked Joan for months out of a "violent and perverted obsession" before killing her, is fighting an unprecedented civil action brought by the Francisco family. In what is thought to be the first civil action taken against someone when there has been no criminal prosecution connected to a marder, they are seeking up to £50,000 compensation for alleged assault and battery.

Mr Diedrick, who was in court yesterday, was arrested in March 1994 and released without charge. But the family's counsel, Patrick O'Connor, says there is compelling circumstantial evidence which "pointed inexorably" towards his guilt.

Celia Prancisco said that while her sister and Mr Diedrick were going out, she had arranged a job for him in America. "He was ... socially maladjusted. I would say he wasn't that trusting ... However ... if he felt She told Joan that she he trusted you, he would become somewhat obsessive over you."

Ms Francisco said that she learned after writing the letter that Joan and Mr Diedrick bad split up. After an incident in which Mr Diedrick broke into the family home in Acton, in February 1989, Joan didn't want anything to do with him.

"She feared for her life ... She had come to the decision that they were at the end of the relationship and it was final, However, Mr Diedrick didn't want to accept that."

rack found in

Three Graces

The hearing continues today.

Stressed Eric and Famous Fred are the talk of the toons



People's choice: Flatworld by Daniel Greaves was picked by screen audiences as both favourite film and best for new perspectives. Above right, Carl Gorham's Stressed Eric won best international co-production and best scenario

By David Lister Arts News Editor

OSCAR hopeful Joanna Quinn received a boost last night when she won a top prize at the British Animation Awards.

The film maker who has been nominated for best animated short film in the Oscars later this month won the best children's special for her Channel 4/S4C film Famous Fred. Based around a cat who has a secret life as a rock'n roll star and wears Elvis Presley outfits, it was the unanimous choice of the children's jury from schools in London and Nottingham.

A previous Oscar winner, Daniel Greaves, won two of the four public choice awards voted for by audiences at the National Film Theatre and Museum of the Moving Image last mouth. His BBC film Flatworld won both favourite film and the new perspectives award. Another winner in two cat-

egories was Carl Gorham's adult animated series Stressed Eric for BBC2, which stars ul-



cer-growing hero Eric Feeble. Jonathan Hodgson's Feeling My Wen won for most creative use of new technologies and Sarah Cox's There was to Go was best film under 10 minutes. Two students won awards: Jim Lefeste, of the Edinburgh College of Art, for best directorial debut with the funny Little Princess's Birthday, and Andrew Higgins, of the Royal College of Art, the craft award for Gotomund.

The awards were presented

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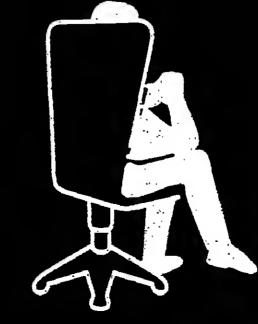
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£7.6m sculpture arrived in discovered, above the shoulder Fault: hairline crack found

after scupture moved

overseas lending, which last surfaced in Scotland when the Burrell Collection trustees in Glasgow unsuccessfully challenged a move by Glasgow museum officials to change the terms of that bequest to enable the collection to be shown over-

museums. Experts at the V & A seas. The Three Graces, commissioned from the Italian Antonio Canova by the Duke of Bedford at the start of the 19th century, has been the pride of the National Galleries for Scotland since its purchase in 1995.

seum does not rule out the A spokeswoman for the galpossibility that the crack may leries said yesterday: "Detailed examinations of the statue in The disclosure could revive Edinburgh revealed that no the debate about the risks of

DAILY POEM

We were separated

By Sophia de Mello Breyner (translated by Richard Zenith)

We were separated by zithers and song And by syllabled verses of long poems And between us two lay landscapes That kept us immobile and distant

Despite the secret fire of words And the fierceness of the song and images Despite the passion of staritt nights And the mist that grazed our faces

We were separated by zithers and song Like others by prisons and swords

This poem comes from Log Book: selected poems by the leading Portuguese poet Sophia de Mello Breyner. Born in Oporto in 1919, she has published 12 volumes of verse, children's books and translations of Dante and Shakespeare. Log Book is published by Carcanet Press (£8.95).



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Brimful of hope: Military delegates at the opening of the National People's Congress in Peking

Blair warns Indonesia to stick with IMF plan

By Richard Lloyd Parry

BRITAIN yesterday warned Indonesia not to abandon an internationally sponsored rescue plan, amid growing tension between Europe and Asia over ways to solve the economic crisis in the Far East.

In a meeting in Jakarta with President Suharto, the foreign office minister, Derek Fatchett delivered a letter from Tony Blair warning the President that an agreement with the In-ternational Monetary Fund for \$60bn (£37.5bn) of emergency funds in return for economic reforms was "not negotiable".

But Asian governments are impatient of what they see as Europe's feeble response to the region's currency crisis, compared to the reaction of the United States and Japan. "European countries have been free-riders



President Suharto: Urged to accept IMF terms

unwilling to share responsibility for helping it out," said Mikie Kiyoi, of the Japanese foreign ministry, in a letter to Financial Times this week.

The row between Europe and Asia threatens to spill over into next month's Asia-Europe

London by the Prime Minister.

The summit, which will be attended by EU heads of government and 10 Asian countries, is the second meeting of its kind. It comes when European governments are trying to improve their relatively weak ties with a region still dominated by the US. But the Asian crisis, caused by the near collapse of the region's currencies, has raised the stakes dangerously high. "There's been an exchange of accusations between the two regions," said one

Western official. Mr Fatchett is the latest in a string of international visitors to urge General Subarto to accept the IMF terms. "The President said to me that they were committed to the programme and I hope that is the case," he said. However, the authority of European pronouncements is compromised by what Asian

Japan contributed \$19bn to the IMF rescues of Thailand, Indonesia and Korea, and the US gave \$8bn. Eight European countries have collectively given just \$6,25hn. At the same time, the EU and the US have criticised Japan for not doing more to reinvigorate its stagnant economy to stimulate Asia as a whole.

European officials insist they are taking action. Britain has promised £5m towards an Asem Trust Fund providing technical advice on restructuring the stricken economies in conjunction with the World Bank. Brussels fears a wave of Asian exports, whose prices have dropped as a result of the collapse of Far Eastern currencies, flooding their markets and driving European firms

China's PM admits to his past errors

LI PENG signed off as China's the NPC, while the new prime prime minister yesterday with a minister will be Zhu Rongji, at hlunt admission of "shortcomings and defects" in the government, but he also forecast that the economy could grow at behaviour divorced from the 8 per cent this year despite a decrepit state enterprise sector, writes Teresa Poole in Peking

He also admitted China could "learn a lesson" from the econumic crises in neighbouring

Mr Li's report on the state of the nation opened the National People's Congress (NPC). China's annual parliament. Mr secured his post as chairman of slower export growth.

present the deputy prime minister in charge of the economy.

Mr Li said: "Bureaucratic needs of the masses and proneness to boasting and exaggerations divorced from reality are serious problems," he said, without explaining why repeated attempts to beat official corruption have failed.

Economic growth, he stated will fall from 8.8 per cent in 1997 to 8 per cent, and infrastructure investment is planned to offset Li - controversially - has a fall in foreign investment and

Indian Spice too hot for Hindu puritans

RITISH readers are probably fed up with the Spice Girls, but in India, where live sightings have so far been confined to one satellite television award presentation in Delhi, people can't get enough of them. That's the only explanation for the flurry of hysterical articles about the girl band that has filled the papers here over the past couple of weeks.

The gist of the articles was, a) the Spice Girls have been signed up to do a concert in front of the famous erotic temples in Khajuraho, central India, in November, and, b) This is a very Bad Thing and should be stopped. Now it appears it was all a sort of mass hallucination: no one has been able to dig up a smidgin of evidence to back the story.

The rumour seems to have been started by a classical Indian dancer called Geeta Chandran who read about the event, or imagined that she did, in a labloid newspaper, and was so overcome with rage that she wrote to the local authority denouncing the project. "By making those temples an erotic prop for their performance," she fumed, "the Spice Girls would be burting the sentiments of centuries and centuries of sacred creativity in India."

The temples, with their voluptuous sculptures, could surely withstand a temporary appropriation by a bubblegum pop group. More threatening are Hindu neopuntans like Ms Chandra and the local MP, a Hindu nun called Uma Bharti, who declared: "If the Spice Girls come here wearing. short skirts I will not even let them land at the airport."

this week the Hindu puritans came a major step closer to power when the BJP and their allies got within 20 scals of winning a majority in parliament. When their political upponents describe the BJP as fascist" it may sound like a cheap jibe, but it is historically sound. There were close links between the Hindu nationalist movement and European fascists in the Thirties, and a guru of the movement wrote in 1939: "To keep up the purity of the Race and its culture, Germany shocked the world by purging the



Peter Popham

country of ... the Jews ... a good lesson for us ... to learn and profit by." The anti-Muslim street violence of nationalists in Ayodhya and Bombay shows they have not lost touch with their roots, and one hopes that in government the BJP will be too hamstrung by their coalition partners to behave like good fascists.

conple of hundred kilometres up the road from Khajurabo is the former princely state of Gwalior, dommated by a massive sandstone escarpment 300ft high, "the pearl among the fortresses of Hind" as Babur, the first Mogui emperor described it.

The fort looks unassailable. but on one occasion a small force did succeed in scaling its walls. I learned this from the Maharaja of Gwalior himself, Madhravao Scindia, the sitting MP, a Congress leader and possible future prime minister. Last week when he was out campaigning for re-election I talked my way into his Ambassador and presented my card. He did a double take. "The only person in history who ever stormed Gwalior Fort was a Major Popham," he told me. "Are you by any chance related?"

This, I surmised, must bave been my old Uncle William who with Warren Hastings cut a bloody swathe through central India in the 1770s. In 1780, with a force of 30 men, Popham somehow scaled the sheer walks and sent the inhabitants packing. These included Mr Scindia's ancestor, Mahadji Scindia.

After an introduction like this I felt obliged to give Mr Scindia a very hard time about the disgusting state of his constituency, and I was lucky not to be thrown out of the car.

SOMETIMES IT'S EASIER TO TALK TO SOMEONE DON'T LIKE.



When you have a problem, it's the most natural thing in the world to want to talk it through with someone.

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You may be lucky enough to be able to talk to someone in your family. Then again, you may be one of the large number of people who find talking to your nearest and dearest agonisingly embarrassing.

A girffriend or boyfriend? If you can, great. But sometimes we don't want to expose our weaknesses to those who fancy us.

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Call now. You'll find we're remarkably easy to talk to.

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By Imre Karacs in Bonn

EUROSCEPTIC Bavaria opened a second from yesterday in its ongoing war with Brussels, demanding an opt-out from European Union-wide immigration rules.

In an unprecedented ultimatum, the Bavarian government threatened to vote against the Amsterdam Treaty unless it was given licence to bar non-EU nationals who are legally resident in another EU member state.

The agreement signed by European leaders in Amsterdam last year called for an EUwide regime on immigration. Britain and Ireland opted-out from some of its provisions, while Germany had led the group of nations pushing for common rules.

But the Bavarians, who are bitterly opposed to all aspects of European integration, including monetary union, have their own ideas for welcoming foreigners. The government in Munich wants to impose special rules, requiring proof from im-

The real purpose of such a measure is to discourage foreigners from even trying.

These proposed rules are not aimed at Third World asylumseekers. They will eventually find it almost impossible to eoter the EU. Munich is concerned with itinerant East Europeans who have gained a

Kohl bugged

A law restricting bugging in private homes won parliamentary approval in a rare defeat for Chancellor Kohl's faction, which had argued that a broad eavesdropping law was needed to counter crim-

foothold in the community and might be tempted to wander into prosperous Bavaria.

The new restrictions would be against the spirit as well as the letter of the Amsterdam Treaty, which seeks to encourage the free movement of people within Fortress Europe. Munich has asked Bonn to intercede on its migrants that they have a job behalf by attaching a protocol to tember with his troops in comand health insurance in Bavaria. Treaty spelling out Bavaria's

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HAYLEY PELOPIDA

position. Otherwise, the Bavarian government says it will oppose the ratification of the Treaty in the German federal chamber, the Bundesrat. Bonn has three weeks to comply.

The Bavarians cannot stall on the treaty for ever, but can cause severe political damage to the federal government. Chancelior Helmut Kohl's tenuous majority in parliament needs the vote of every member of the party that rules in Munich, the Christian Social Union.

The CSU has only oow abandoned its hruising campaign against German participation in European Monetary Union, and is clearly looking for another axe to grind. With regional elections approaching, the Bavarian Prime Minister, Edmund Stoiber, is keen to exploit the anti-European sen-

timents of his voters. For Chancellor Kohl, whose wobbly coalition fell apart and suffered a rare defeat in Parliament yesterday, the bitter row with Munich could not have come at a worse time. He faces national elections in Sep-



Cook plea falls on deaf ears as Serb police blitz villages

short of a humiliation for Mr

Cook, who had hoped to talk

Mr Milosevic into starting a di-

alogue about greater autono-

my for Kosovo with the

province's moderate Alban-

ian leadership. Instead Mr

Cook, who was acting oo be-

half of the European Union,

found himself powerless to

threateo Mr Milosevic with

anything worse than a cootin-

uation of Yugoslavia's diplo-

matic isolation. His insistence

on implementing a Serb-

Albanian education accord

By Andrew Gumbel in Belgrade

SERBIAN police attacked more than a dozeo Albanian villages with artillery fire and helicopter gunships in a sharp escalation of violence in the Albanian-dominated province of Kosovo yesterday. The attack made a mockery of efforts by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, to pressure the Serbs into halting their repression.

While Mr Cook was in Belgrade preaching the need for dialogue and respect of human rights to both Albanian leaders and the Yugoslav President, Slobodan Milosevic, special police units were ripping, apparently indiscriminately, through Albanian villages in Kosovo's Drenica region under the pretext of carrying out an anti-terrorist dragnet operation.

Details of the violence were sketchy and casualties were impossible to estimate accurately because the area was completely sealed off by security forces, but by late afternoon the wounded and dead had begun arriving at hospitals in the provincial capital, Pristina. Sources at the moderate Albanjan-language newspaper said that information they were

A woman faints during a

receiving from the area suggested the death toll could

run to several dozen people. Albanians and Serbs have begun to leave Kosovo in recent days for fear of further bloodshed. Albanian reports said that women and children from the Drenica area were trying to escape the conflict on tractors, but that Serb police on the roads were forcing them to go back. This renewed outburst of

protest vigil Photograph: AFP

reached last year sounded feeble and even trivial in the light of the latest violence. "I would like to say that I am leaving more hopeful than I was when I arrived," Mr Cook said grimly before boarding his plane back to London, "But I leave with very grave

CONCETTIS." He made constant reference to the need for a political solution, not just a police operation to weed out armed Albanian extremists. But be chose not to refer to the fact that many of the victims of a police blitz in Drenica tast weekend, in which more than 20 people were killed, had been tortured and gunned

police repression was little down in cold blood without any their involvement in subversive

> Instead, he repeatedly said that Europe could not condone terrorist activities - a perfectly respectable line taken in context, but one that was snapped up by the state media in Belgrade as a partial vindication of the police operations. The Serbian authorities in-

sisted that their actions were targeted specifically at sus- vanise political opinion behind pected strongholds of the so- him on Kosowo and so strengthcaued Kosovo Lineration Army - the shady armed group coalition government. The fact that has takeo responsibility for that this will entrench his paria string of killings of Serb policemen and Albanian "collaborators" over the past year.

One village that was shelled and set on fire, Prekaze, has often been mentioned as a centre of anti-Serb activism. Another village under fire, Lause, was the scene last November of an ambush on a police convoy that marked the first public declaration of the Kosovo Liberatioo Army.

Both yesterday and over the weekend, though, the police appeared to be motivated primarily by revenge. Yesterday morning, shortly before the dragnet operation be-

evideoce being produced of Drenica area was sprayed with bullets by unknown assailants.

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Worryingly, there appears to be an attempt on both sides to radicalise the conflict. Kosawo's traditional Albanian leaders have always preached nonviolence, but are now losing ground with an ever-more impatient population clamouriog for independence at

any price. Mr Milusevic, meanwhile, knows that he can galah status in the international community does not seem to be of immediate concern.

Mr Cook made no threat to reimpose full sanctions on Yugoslavia and he said that outside military intervention was out of the question - on both points differing from the US position. The one concrete proposal Mr Cook made was to open a European Union office in Pristina to monitor the situation and act as a mediator between the two sides. But it does not appear that he was given any encouragement on this or any other point by his Serbian interlocutors.

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Furious Italians tell Blair to mind his language

By Katherine Butler in Brussels

BICKERING over languages is threatening chaos at a summit of 26 European leaders to be hosted by Tony Blair in London next week.

Italian national pride, barely recovered from the shock of language combinations unless seeing Italy represented on the British EU presidency's logo by a pizza, was wounded to the core this week when it emerged that Britain was planning to provide interpretation at the event into English, French, German

and Spanish, but oot Italian. Tony Blair banishes the language of Dante from the EU" ran headlines in Italiao newspapers. Mr Blair, they reminded readers, was oot averse to spending his holidays in Tuscarry, yet considered the language of Shakespeare superior when it came to EU business. It would be the first summit in EU history which did not accommodate

all 11 official languages. The problem, say British officials, is that there is not House, the summit venue, for Lithuanian, the source added. | for the same killings.

21 interpretation booths. And that is what would be needed to accommodate the 21 languages spoken when the EU expands to admit 10 East European countries and Cyprus. If the Turkish part of Cyprus is included, the total will be 22.

"We could not cover all the we had booths all around the room with dozens of people stacked into each one" said a Foreign Office spokesperson.

Diplomatic efforts to find a solution were continuing last night. An apparent attempt to appease the Italians in the latest British plan would cut Spanish out of the equation. But Mr Blair oow risks attack from Madrid for snubbing the

language of Cervantes. A lunch at Buckingham Palace to he hosted by the Queen will have no direct interpretation. "They will have to make sure they sit next to somebody they can converse with or else bring along a whispering interpreter of their own" said an official. The Queen will oot be enough space at Lancaster expected to speak Estonian or

UN court gives Bosnian killer second chance

THE HAGUE (AP) - Resectencing a remorseful Bosnian Croat to five years for killing at least 70 unarmed Muslims, UN judges said they hoped the case would encourage other war criminals to surrender. Drazeo Erdemovic, 26,

blinked back tears as Yugoslav war crimes tribunal judges halved his previous 10-year senlence for the 1995 massacre. Though Erdemovic faced

up to life imprisonment, the judges said the young father was "reformable" and "should be given a chance to start his life afresh while he is still young enough to do so."

With two years he has already speot in custody subtracted from the sentence, Erdemovic will be freed in three years, He was originally seotenced

to 10 years in November 1996 after pleading guilty to a crime against humanity for gunning down about 70 Muslims on a collective farm who were taken prisoner after rebel Serbs overran Srebrenica in July 1995.

He appealed the sentence and pleaded guilty in January to a lesser charge of a war crime

Chechen's dinner with Thatcher stirs Russian ire

By Phil Reeves in Moscow

> **NEWS** that Baroness Thatcher will host a London dinner next week for the president of Chechnya, Aslan Maskhadov, was yesterday greeted with cynicism in political circles in Moscow. Russia has yet to recognise the small republic's independence despite losing a

21-month war of secession. One member of parliament suggested that the former prime minister was using Mr Maskhadov as a "toy" to "remind people of her existence". Another remarked: "I feel sorry for Mr Maskhadov. She was midwife for Mr Gorbachev's politics, and ook what happened to him."

The trip has already spawned a minor diplomatic panic in Russia where Chechnya remains an extraordinarily sensitive issue. Officials still smart over the election to prime minister of Shamil Basayev, whose career has included robbing banks and hijacking an aircraft. He is still seen here as a terrorisi.

Anxious not to upset the Kremlin, the British Embassy Jon James. 37.

passed details of Mr Maskhadov's visit to the Russian Foreign Ministry and the Security Council, along with copions assurances that Mr Maskhadov will not be treated as the head of an independent country, but

merely as a regional leader. But yesterday one of Mr Maskhadov's aides upset the applecart by claiming the President had been issued an entry visa to Britain against a Chechen passport, prompting hasty denials from the Foreign Office, which does not recognise Chechnya's independence.

The volatility of the issue was evident from comments by the Russian Foreign Ministry which told the Itar-Tass news agency that "the reception of Mr Maskhadov on an official level is out of the question". In fact, the former Chechen communder, a guest of Lord McAlpine. the former Tory Party treasurer, will be meeting senior Foreign Office officials, although diplomats insist that the discussion will be restricted to the fate of two British hostages in Chechnya, Camilla Carr, 4th, and

search for a job in the private sector, but denied he had mitiated the effort to find her em-

These details, which auginterest in her subsequeot tween Mr Clinton and Ms says she was propositioned by legal team. This includes

Washington Post yesterday,

it was the most authoritative

1991.

The videotaped interrogation swer questions in the sexual ha- scheduled, on 27 May. One dement and confirm information rassment case brought by Paula tail reported by the Post was a already made public about the Iones, the former government written definition of sexual resions. He admitted taking an still-unclarified relationship to-

Lewinsky, were printed by the Mr Clinton in a hotel room in fondling and oral sex, but not said it had obtained a partial Lewinsky's name first emerged Clinton's testimony that apkissing on the lips, and leaves Mr transcript of Mr Clinton's 17 Clinton little room to modify his January deposition, much of the ployment. He also denied account yet of sworn testimony lasted for more man six bours denial of an affair with Ms questioning related to Ms categorically having a sexual region by Mr Ciuton in January. and can be brought as evidence Lewinsky without laying himself Lewinsky. Allegations that Mr lationship with her.

Clinton had an affair with her A news report last weekend sug- and put pressure on her to lie gested that Mr Clinton might be about it are the subject of a sepprepared to admit kissing Ms arate, criminal, investigation Lewinsky, but nothing more. conducted by the independent

According to the Post, which prosecutor, Kenneth Starr. Ms

Clinton and have sought out other women who may have been propositioned by him.

ing the information about Mr doubt about its authenticity.

in connection with the Paula peared in yesterday's Post, but Jones case. Ms Jones's lawyers no one denied the account was have been trying to establish a genuine. The extent of detail -"pattern of behaviour" by Mr which included a description of the President speaking so softly that he was repeatedly asked to speak up, and occasional The White House and Mr flashes of anger about the Clinton's lawyers denied leak- course of questioning, left little

US opens door to 51st state -Puerto Rico

By Phil Davison Latin America Correspondent

ONE HUNDRED years after the United States captured it from Spain, the Spanishspeaking Caribbean island of Pucito Rico may be set to become the 51st state of the United States

By the narrowest of votes late on Wednesday night, the US House of Representatives gave the go-ahead for the island's 3.8 million people to decide whether they want statehood, independence or a continuation of "US commonwealth" status - effectively as a US colony.

Since polls suggest less than 5 per cent of islanders want to go it alone - they currently have US citizenship and rely almost totally on trade and other ties with the US - the referendum would probably be close between those who want statehood and those who prefer the status quo.

Although the House bill proposed a refther vote in the Senate. This seems unlikely. before the end of 1998. And even if the referendum were to go in favour of statehood. it could take 10 years for the transition to be made and the extra, 51st star to be added to the Stars and Stripes flag.

heated 12-hour House debate on television. culminating in a 209-208 vote. The statebood issue has split the island and most are would be necessary.

wary of decisions taken in the US, where islanders cannot vote. They have no voting representatives in the US Congress and do not pay federal taxes either, though they are subject to the US military draft.

The independence question led to violence on the island in the Fifties. Puerto Rican independence militants opened fire in the US House of Representatives in 1954, wounding five congressmen. Four years earlier, Puerto Rican nationalists had tried, unsuccessfully, to kill President Harry Truman.

Many islanders were upset by this week's debate, when the right-wing Republican congressmen tried to push through an amendment that would have made English Puerto Rico's only official language. Most Puerto Ricans speak only Spanish and less than a quarter are bilingual.

Soucezed between the island of Hispaniola to the west and the former British and other Caribbean islands to the east, the majority of Puerto Ricans accept they could erendum this year, it first requires a fur- not live without American aid. The island receives \$10bn (£6bn) from the US budget each year, which may rise to \$14bn if it becomes a state.

In a non-binding plebiscite five years ago, more than 48 per cent of islanders voted for the status one, more than 46 per cent for, Puerto Ricans reacted cautiously to the statehood and about 4 per cent for inde-



On the move: A new Pennsylvania Station is to emerge from beneath the hubbub of New York's General Post Office

New York's Penn station rises again from the rubble

FEW acts of urban vandalism equalled the razing of Pennsylvania Station, a neo-classical masterpiece, in Manhattan 35 years pendence. Under the terms of the House | ago. The city has been feeling the guilt ever bill, a simple majority of over 50 per cent | since. Now, it is seizing a chance to make

The old Penn Station is gone for good. Meade and White. After years of prodding, a new, beautiful railway station, worthy of Chunks still lie among the rushes in marshland across the Hudson River in New Jersey. What passes as Penn Station today is a low-ceilinged, subterranean warren beneath Madison Square Garden. It was to make way for the Garden that the old Penn

Across Eighth Avenue from the Garden, however, is New York's General Post Ofsweeping steps and marching columns, it evokes the Station that is no more. It should; both buildings were designed by the ven-

render a large part of its facility for - guess what - a new, and newly grandiose Pennsylvania Station. Construction will begin this What should emerge will be a fine ter-

minus with restaurants and shops. Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, a prime mover by feeding down to the lines below. behind the project, said the decision was

President Bill Chinton is also impressed: he helped, by twisting the arm of the Post its floor area to the railways. Eventually the

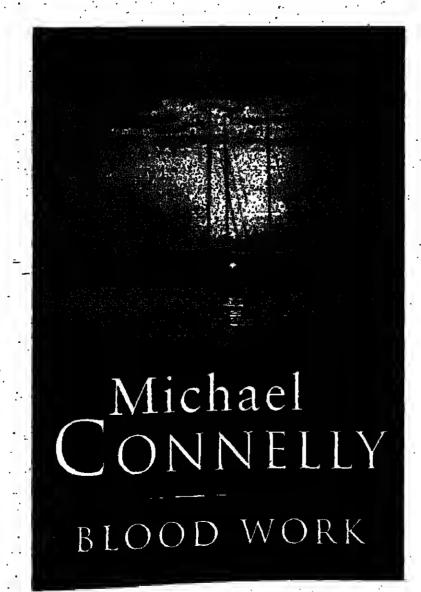
the Post Office this week agreed to sur- the future, and worthy of New York City". It is budgeted to cost some \$315m.

For the engineers, one detail is crucial. The lines coming into the existing Penn Station pass directly beneath the Post Office building. All that will be needed, therefore, will be escalators from the grand new lob-

Getting to this point has not been easy. Office. What he saw was a "vision to huild Post Office may be chased out altogether.

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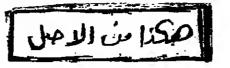
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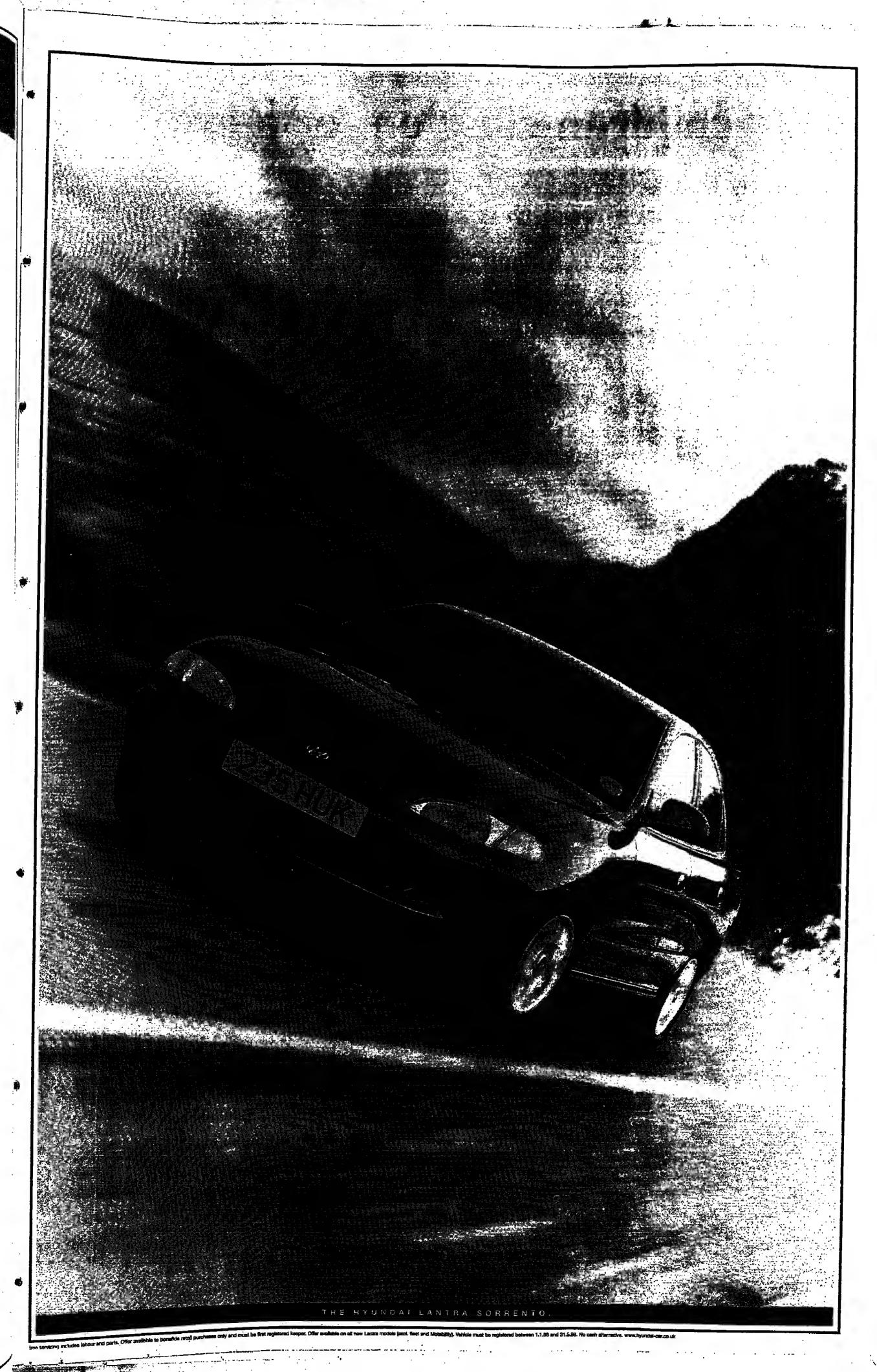


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Secretary of the secret

Iraq's children cling on for a grim life

The in-tray that holds horrors of deprivation

By Robert Fisk ın Baghdadı

A VISIT to Philippe Heffinck's prowling through the garbage round the corner. Certainly not because there's anything wrong

them an anodype quality. "The 1996 Multiple Indicator Cluster posing the economic blockade Survey" doesn't indicate much un Iraq, and it is Mr Heffinck pain_ "Nutritutional Status Sur-



Readers who wish to help the cancer-stricken children of southern Iraq can send cheques made out to The Independent Basra Fund, to PO Box Nn 6870, London E14 5BT.

vey at Primary Health Centres During Pelio National Immucontents of these white-covwords, and you realise that through hell.

"We have found that chrona deceptive monotone. "That only 3,500 tons - because cluding the Kurdish areas. This very often the overspill is chronic malnutrition up to two drinking. In Baghdad, only 30 years old, because that is the per per cent of the population is riod when the brain is farmed.

You become stunted. There is a lack of physical and mental growth that will afflict the child - his schooling, his job opporoffice is a grim business. Not be- tunities, his chances of foundcause of the feral children ing a family and quite possibly his or her offspring as well."

All this was said with the curt

politeness of a civil servant, of with the UNICEF office in a UN bureaucrat going through Baghdad, a block of former his statistics. And one could not apartments whose soft carpet- hut reflect on what this repreing and subdued telephone sents. While the UN inspectors bells could be a government de- are neutering Iraq's weapons partment in Mr Heffinck's na- programme - and with good tive Belgium. Coffee is served reason - the same organisation piping hot, with plenty of milk is imposing sanctions that are crippling the country's chil-Even the files on Mr dren. Of course, Saddam is to Heffinck's desk have about hlame - Saddam is always to hlame. But it is we who are im-- on our behalf - who is drawing up these dreadful statistics.

People think," he goes on, "that with more food and medicine, things are going to work better. But the quantity of available water has decreased by 50 per cent and the quality of water has deteriorated in some Iraqi governorates to 35 per cent contamination. Because it's not just the water-treatment plants that need repairing in Iraq but the pipes as well. Then you have the lack of electricity that contributes to the deterioration in

I already understood the revolting mechanics of electrical power and water, a UN hygiene official had explained it to me, equally coldly, 24 hours earlier: when electricity is cut - which nization Days" gives an almost it is every three hours, for expositive gloss to Iraq's deterio- ample, in Basra - the pumps ration. But dig through the stop and the pressure in the leaking water pipes falls. Into ered documents and listen to the vacuum is sucked sewage Mr Heffinck's cold, analytical which runs out of the taps. Even the original source of the lraq's children are going water is now contaminated in

"There should be 5,000 tons ic mainutrition stands at 51 of gardage collected in Bagndad accounts, in the whole of Iraq, sewage treatment plants are for 1.1 million children, in- not functioning properly. So is a serious problem - particu- dropped in the river - from larly serious when you have which water is pumped for connected with a sewage system



A young girl leans out of a slum window in the Dour Sheoun area of Basra

the hig majority use septic tanks which don't work well in

per cent for children up to five every day," Mr Heffinck says. working due to lack of spare years old," Mr Heffinck says in "But the capacity available is parts. So people are forced to empty their tanks into the drains; and this is one cause of diarrhoea diseases and typhoid fevers among children. "You have a lack of electricity, a lack of clean water and a lack of environmental sanitation: the relationship between these three is a deadly combination."

desk with their white covers tell lion, contributing to child mala shallow water-table like this, the story with great clarity. A mutrition, which in turn leads to tion in Iraq is about equal to "But now many mechanical child who is malnourished can-disease and poor school atten-that of Zaire. large increase in the number of diarrhoea cases - on average. every child in Iraq suffers 3-15 episodes of diarrhoea each year. But in the past, a child entering hospital with diarrhoea had. only a one in 600 chance of dy-

> dying from curable diarrhoea. The statistics seem endless. Cereal production has fallen

includes a free massage, or introductory facial or conditioning hand treatment per

and leave your name, full address

O: One of the therapies at

Ragdale Hall involves

placing needles into the

Those files on Mr Heffinck's from 3.5 million tons to 2.2 mil- in their mindreds in franch hosure turns up for class."

make comparisons, but it any comment, even though they doesn't take long to work out admit they have heard talk of the implications of his figures, depleted uranium shells causing. Now one in 50 children are the 1.1 million children with chronic malnutrition, the does child cancer feature in 330,000 with acute malnutrition, those white files. the kwashiokor cases turning up

pitals: the degree of malmutriand II used to attend school. cancer that has followed the

Now only 63 per cent of that fig- 1991 Gulf War is a subject about which Mr Heffinck and Mr Heffinck is not a man to his colleagues refuse to make ing leukemia. And not once

Now isn't that an odd fact?

Cook initiative to push Europe into Middle East process

BRITAIN is launching what looks an uphill attempt to propel Europe to centre stage in the Middle East, with initiatives to revive the moribund Israeli-Palestinian peace process, and to speed up the expanded United Nations oil-for-food pro-

gramme for Iraq. In a speech to the Anglo-Arab Association, Robin Cook set out the six steps Britain believes essential if the peace process is to be revived. They include a halt to new Israeli settlements, a fresh commitment to security by the Palestinians, substantial, credible and urgent" troop redeployments by Israel, and measures to boost the Palestinian economy.

Although the Foreign Office denies it, the onus is placed clearly on the Israeli side, and the settlements demand in particular has already been flatly rejected by the Government of Benjamin Netanyahu. "Europeans know nothing about the Middle East." Mr Netanyahu was quoted as saying on the eve of his arrival in Spain yesterday. to start a four day European tour to win support for his uncompromising stance.

Mr Netanyahu - who meets

Israeli Prime Minister but the Israeli people. They knew that lasting security without peace was impossible, Mr Cook declared. They want the peace process to go forward, they share the world's concern about the current stalemate."

Mr Cook pays his first visit to the region later this month. visiting the six countries most closely involved in the Arab-Israeli dispute, including Israel, Syria, Jordan and the Occupied Territories while in April Mr Blair will make a trip to the Middle East.

Foreign Office officials last night stressed the speech contained "no anti-Israeli elements whatsoever," hut in tone it seemed designed to redress the balance after Britain's threats to use force against Iraq.

Mr Cook laid explicit stress on the "light at the end of the" tunnel" for the Iraqi people, if Saddam complied with UN resotutions. He said Britain was convening un EU conference to help direct proceeds of the oilfor-food programme quickly and efficiently to the intended recipients.

■ JERUSALEM (Reuters) --Israel's attorney-general, Elyakim Rubinstein, said he In his own coded criticism of had met officials io Switzerland yesterday to seek the release of Tony Blair in London at the a Mossad agent caught in an alweekend - the Foreign Secre-tary last night invoked not the barrassed the spy service.

Academics condemn the effect of sanctions on health and education

The sanctions on Iraq are se- health is like refusing food and verely damaging its education medicine to the passengers in system and cultural beritage, ac- a hijacked plane. cording to academics and researchers, writes Kim Sengupta. Among the items paigning against non-military on the UN blacklist are pencils, science books and computer press conference by experts software. And, while the sanctions are hindering the educa- of Iraq to "counter governtional prospects of the young, ment propaganda". Haris Gazbeing smuggled to collectors in Economics researcher, said the the West.

and Oxford have written to the Independent expressing concern about the effect of sanctions on civilians, which, they say, are "counter-productive and indefensible".

"Allowing the people of Iraq to suffer malnutrition and poor

The Labour MP George Galloway, who has been camsanctions, yesterday hosted a who have first-hand experience average income of an Iraqi had Academics from Cambridge fallen from around £150 a month before the Gulf war to around £3 a month now. The country, whose national income was comparable with that of South Korea and Brazil before the war, is now on a lower level than Bangladesh.

Letters, page 22

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INDEPENDENT

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Suicide bus bomb kills 32 in Colombo

A BUS laden with shrappel-packed bombs raced into the capital's crowded business district and exploded, killing at least 32 people and wounding more than 300. Suspicion fell on guerrillas of the nation's Tamil minority. The bus, empty of all but the driver, blew apart outside a train station, ripping the fronts off buildings and shredding dozens of vehicles. The dead included at least three children from schools in the area and two police officers.

Lesbian pardoned

President Emil Constantinescu of Ro-mania pardoned a Jesbian imprisoned under a code which still considers homosexuality a crime. Adevarul newspaper printed a list of presidential pardons, including one for Marina Cetiner, who completed two years of a three-year jail sentence for "luring another woman into sexual intercourse". - Reuters, Bucherest

Custody ruling

The Hungarian-born porn star Ilona Staller, known as "Cicciolina", has lost custody of her five-year-old son to her ex-husband, the sculptor Jeff Koons, after an Italian court ruled she was an un-

French inquiry into genocide role

By John Lichfield

The French parliament is to investigate charges that France, in effect, condoned the genocide in Rwanda in 1994. The National Assembly's Defence Committee has created a mission d'information, or study group, not the full-blown public committee of inquiry which critics of French policy have demanded. Médecins Sans Frontières, the French humanitarian organisation, rejected the decision as a "diversionary tactic".

Evidence has emerged that France supplied political support and weapons to the former Hutu regime in Rwanda while the massacres of about 800,000 Tutsis in the spring and summer of 1994 were under way. It is also suggested that in the months before the massacres, French military training missions in Rwanda turned a blind eye to evidence that genocide was planned.

The re-examination of France's role follows the publication of a 1,000-page report by a Belgian parliamentary committee and investigative articles in Le Figuro. France has refused to co-operate with the international war crimes investigation of the genocide, ordering military officers not to give evidence. Recently, there has been a clamour from

Green and Communist members of Par-

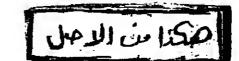
liament for a thorough, public committee of inquiry. The chairman of the Defence Committee, former defence minister Paul Quilès, has instead won an agreement that 10 or 12 deputies should form a study group. Critics say such a group will meet in secret and may never make public its findings.

Mr Quilès says that it is "not impossihle" the report will be published. He insists it is vital that the group works "in serenity" (ie out of the eye of the media). A full inquiry would be constitutionally impossible, he claims, while the war crimes tribunal is under way. This is a dubious assertion. It might have been true if France, or French personnel, were un trial, but they are not.

The central allegation against France is that the late president François Mitter-rand became obsessed with the need to prop up the French-speaking Hutu regime in Kigali and defeat the English-speaking Tutsi rebels, long exiled in Uganda. The Hutus were seen as a vital hulwark against the spread of US influence and the English language in South Central Africa. According to Le Figaro, France exported arms to the Hutus in the summer of 1994, even though massacres of Tutsis were proceeding on an epic scale. The newspaper quoted President Mitterrand as saying: "In countries like that, genocide is not so important."







i's dinne!

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Catholic with a small 'c'

Is the Prime Minister turning to Rome? John Rentoul, his biographer, thinks not – yet. But thousands of others are doing so. One recent convert explains why

FOR someone who "can't stand politicians . who wear God on their sleeves", the Prime Minister's religious helief is surprisingly central to people's perceptions of him. Of the small number of personal facts about Tony Blair of which most voters are aware, that he is a devout Christian is one of the best known.

Inevitably, his religious affiliation has become public property, the subject of debate and opinionated assertion. The fact that he is nominally an Anglican and yet attends Roman Catholic Mass with his Roman Catholic wife and children has been taken as a licence to draw conclusions on his behalf.

Now the conversion story has been given another twist, because Mr Blair has continued to do as Prime Minister what he did before the election, namely to go to church, and he has also been seen attending Mass alone. It seems strange to some people that he attends both Anglican and Roman Catholic churches, but to the Blairs' friends there is a simple explanation as to why the Prime Minister has attendedMass by himself. Since moving to Downing Street, it has become tradition for the family to attend Mass at Westminster Cathedral; when alone, Mr Blair simply maintains the tradition.

This is not enough for some observers. He goes to Mass? says Cardinal Thomas Winning, head of the Catholic church in Scotland. Then he must be against abortion. Well, he does not exactly rejoice in it, hut no, he does not think it would help to criminalise it. He goes to Mass! cries Catholic convert Paul Johnson. Then he must be on the road to Rome. It does not fallow. Others authoritatively declare Mr Blair a "High" Anglican or an Anglo-Catholic, as if these were simple and unambiguous terms.

His eagerness to get to a church on Sundays when he is travelling - and his indifference as between C of E and RC - has long been a cause of the quizzically-raised atheistic eyehrow among the changing cast of minders and friends around him.

Of course, there is more to Mr Blair's religion than the outward observances. The trouble is that his reluctance to talk about his faith invites others to interpret it for him. As his biographer, I can confirm that his religion is private. He does not talk about it unless asked, and then he is brief and matter-of-fact. What is more, most of the Blairs' friends say they have never discussed religion with either of them.

But for all his reticence, he has made * two substantial theological statements in public, and we do know about how he came to call himself a Christian and how it relates to his political life.

It is significant, for example, that he was not brought up in the Church of England, except in the formal sense at school (and his public school was half Church of Scotland). His father is an atheist and, though his mother was a believer, the family did not go to church. So, unlike Cheric, his church is not part of his family identity: like his party, he chose it, at the age of 20.

Cherie Blair's faith is fundamental to her life. Although her own mother, Gale, was not a Catholie and her absent actor father. in the faith because she lived in the Liverpool house of her Catholic paternal grandmother and attended Catholic schools. She has never said anything about her beliefs, but while clearly being devout, it is thought she is a liberal Catholic. She did not insist, for example, on marriage in a Catholic church, and while their sons go to the traditinnal Oratory school, their daughter, Kathryn, is expected to join a Church of England secondary school next year.

Before he met his wife, the formative influences on Blair's faith were twofold, a person and a philosophy. Peter Thomson, an earthy, anti-establishment Australian eleric, was a postgraduate student at Oxford, who introduced Blair to the writings of John Macmurray, a Scottish thinker who an injunction to "look at our world today" had fallen nut nf favour as he was neither and see "how much needs to be done". a philosopher (because he was not interested in linguistics) nor a theologian (because he rarely mentioned God).

Both influences point towards a radical commenism at odds with the idea that Blair ing what to do with Jesus; Peter, "the rock as much as Blair the theologian.



Tony and Cherie Blair after attending Catholic Mass with Rt Rev Cormac Murphy O'Connor in Brighton during the Labour Party Conference

Tony Booth, was lapsed, she was brought up might sign up as a Roman Catholic. Macmurray, who left a deep imprint on Blair through the idea of community, ended his life in the Society of Friends (the Quakers). Meanwhile Thomson, who returned to Britain in order to share in the excitement of his protége's election victory, has given a lecture in honour of R.H. Tawney on how the institutions of the church have gone horribly wrong since Jesus's time.

This emphasis on the personality of Jesus is shared by Blair, who wrote a foreword to a collection of Christian socialist essays in 1993. This declared that: "Christianity is a very tough religion ... It is judgmental. There is right and wrong. There is good and bad." But this is not toughness in a doctrinaire sense. It was a call to social action,

Then, in Easter 1996, Blair gave a long interview to the Sunday Telegraph about his belicfs. He talked about the three parts of the Easter message: Pontius Pilate, decid-

of Christ", who denied him in weakness; and "Christ himself in the Garden of Gethsemane" suffering the very human agony and

saying, "not my will, but thine, be done". There are many Roman Catholics who would share the radical social message, and even this direct and personal relationship with the New Testament, but it seems to me that everything Blair says about religion - in parallel with his political message -

speaks of inclusiveness. In his Sunday Telegraph interview, he went on: "I am an ecumenical Christian. I find many of the angry debates between Catholic and Protestant completely baffling." To spurn one designation in favour of another would surely be to add fuel to precisely those angry debates.

But there are still many in the Catholic hierarchy who think that it is only a matter of time. Of course, they say, Blair would not convert while he was Prime Minister. That, at least, would certainly fit with everything we know about Blair the politician,

the Northern Ireland peace talks. Blair has in the past gone out of his way to claim both Protestant and Catholic roots to his family tree, while his marriage is itself an important symbol of inter-denominational unity. But he also takes a closer interest in Church of England affairs than any of his recent predecessors, becoming the first prime minister to block the appointment of a bishop since the present system was

established 21 years ago. There are those close to Cardinal Basil Hume, leader of the Catholic church in Britain, who suggest that he and Blair have discussed the possibility of conversion; but agreed that the idea should be put "on hold" until he ceases to be Prime Minister.

Blair has certainly met Cardinal Hume, and they have discussed matters of faith. But their first communications were rather spikey. Some time after Blair became Labour leader, there was a new priest at his and Cherie's parish church in Islington. Whereas the previous incumbent, a liber-

It would be disastrous in the context of al, took a relaxed view of Blair's taking communion, the new man objected. For conservative Catholics, it is distressing that anybody who does not accept in theory and in practice the authority of the Church should receive the sacrament. (In fact, this rule is widely flouted in the case of second marriages, because there is another rule that says communion should not be refused if this would cause a scandal).

> There was a flurry, which went up as high as Cardinal Hume, and Blair agreed not to take communion any more.

Since becoming Prime Minister, the two have met often. But the idea that they have discussed - let alone agreed - a delayed conversion must owe more to Catholic wishfulfilment and Blair's uncanny ability to persuade anyone that he is on their side, had lonked at many of its medieval accrethan to any firm intentions the Prime Minister has expressed.

Despite his professed reticence, Blair has said enough about his beliefs for us to know that he is - as in politics - a catholic

IF TONY BLAIR had attended Westminster Cathedral last Sunday, he would not have stood out from the crowd. The Roman Catholic cathedral was packed with people who were not members of the Holy Mother Church, But these were people whn would soon belong, and had come to the cathedral for a special ceremony to mark their Lenten preparation for conversion to the faith. On Easter Saturday, the 800 prospective converts attending the cathedral will be received into the Catholic church at midnight vigils across London.

Since 1981, more than 80,000 people in Britain have converted to Rome. The Catholic Church, with its declining attendances and falling hirth count, needs them badly. They are often more committed and more intense about their faith than cradle Catholics, for conversion requires an intense effort, both emotional and spiritual. Many of those who met Cardinal Hume last Sunday were in tears, such was the impact of coming so close to the moment of total acceptance by the church.

Conversion nowadays usually consists of attending Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults courses, lasting six months to a year.

With fewer priests than ever (despite the recent influx of Anglican priests opposed to women's ordination) much of this work is now done by the laity. For certain people, one-to-one instruction from a priest. such as the Franciscan Father Michael Seed, is available. He guided the politicians John Gummer and Ann Widdecombc.

Why join? Paul Warren, a children's author and illustratur, was received into the church last Easter. Like Mr Blair, his wife was a Catholic and his children had been baptised as Catholics. His eldest son, like Mr Blair's, goes to the Oratory School in



the night he became a Catholic

He says: "As a child of the Sixties I was pretty wild, though I also felt in some vague way that my life must have some purpose. God, perhaps? If so, how could I find Him? Needless to say I took a few short cuts in my search, and over the years I garnered a motley ragbag of mystical ideas.

"It sounds wonderful - I could mix and match. I could practically invent my own religion. But my heart wasn't in it. It just didn't feel right. My belief in God may have deepened, but I wasn't a Taoist, a Navajo or an Aztec. I felt a stranger in a strange land. never fully at home. I was still searching.

"And then an odd thing happened. One day, searching through some old family photographs, I came across my C of E baptism certificate. I had no idea - my parents had never been churchgoers - but quite unexpectedly the discovery touched me. It meant something to me, as if a seed, planted all those years ago, had suddenly bloomed. I realised I had come full circle. I had rediscovered my Christian roots."

But what could Mr Warren do about it? . "My wife was Roman Catholic and our children were preparing for a Catholic education. The Church of England was going through changes that suggested too many shifting uncertainties. If I was coming home, I didn't want to arrive in the middle of a family row. On the other hand, I found that the Catholic Church was also developing; it too was re-examining its roots and the teaching of the Church fathers. It tions and was seeking harmony between the Sacraments and the Word of God. I was also drawn by the Church's reverence for Mary and by the humanity of the saints. It seemed a very human church, It stirred my faith: my head and my heart."

like that since she was a

teenager, no doubt with 501s

and a leather coat - just like

other women her age. Why

should she wear Manolo Blahnik heels and designer dress-

es? She is not paid to be a

clothes-horse, she is paid to act.

and she is very good at it.

When the cameras stop rolling, dress to please yourselves

The fashion police have felt the frayed collars of two of Britain's best young actors. Melanie Rickey senses a miscarriage of justice

WHEN Helena Bonham Carter boarded Concorde to New York on Wednesday, onlookers were surprised, shocked even, to see her dressed in a mish-mash of most un-film-starry clothes, with tousled hair and not a hint of make-up.

Where was the cashmere wrap? The sunclasses? The leave-me-alone-I-am-a-moviestar demeanour? It was in exactly the same place as Kate Winslet's leave-me-alone-Iam-a-movie-star demeanour Kate Winslet off-duty and at the Baftas; Helena Bonham Carter in baggy jumper and award night gown when she boarded Concorde last week wearing a mini-skirt with bare legs, boots, chunky socks and a black leather coat; put away until Oscar eight on 23 March, when both women will look every inch giamorous icons of the silver screen.

The truth is that today's young actresses are an entirely different breed of women from the Marilyn Monroe, Ava Gardner and Lauren









Last November, when He-

lena Bonham Carter was getting primped, preened and laced into a Vivienne Westwood gown for the London premiere of The Wings of The Dove, she commented: "I'm dressing up and pretending to be a movie star," and after changing out of her dungarees and trainers, donning the gown, and spending three hours in hair and make-up, she looked sensational, and assumed her part beautifully. just like Kate Winslet did in her Vivienne Westwood gown at last year's Oscar ceremnay and just as they will again on and has probably worn boots 23 March

Bacall types of the Forties and to Kate (Moss) and Helena about fashion as her rather her style. Those chunky brown Fifties. Then, every detail of their clothing, make-up, eyebrows and hairstyles were slavishly copied to such a degree that most fashionable women

of that era looked like clones. In the late Ninetics, we've got a diverse selection of supermodels for inspiration, and frankly we would rather look doesn't seem to care too much

(Christensen) for fashion tips, not our lovely actresses Kate and Helena who are all the better for their imperfections and remind us of our humanity.

Unfortunately this doesn't stop the hitching, sniping and deconstruction of their every fashion choice. Bonham Carter

hideous patchwork jumper shows, but she doesn't really have to. She was the face of Yardley cosmetics from 1993 to 1996, and has done her time as a two-dimensional image.

Winslet, on the other hand, is the hapless victim of style hloodhounds, who revel in her. weight problems and ridicule

boots she wore last week do not represent ber need to show ber inner "tomboy" nor do they imply that her feet "are firmly. planted on the ground" despite her rise to fame. That is utter rubbish. Kate Winslet is still, as she often points out a 22year-old woman from Reading

Arms and the woman

For more than 16 years, Jenny Matthews has taken her camera to some of the world's most horrifying conflicts, from the civil wars in Eritrea and Nicaragua to the ethnic bloodbath in Rwanda. As part of International Women's Week, an exhibition of her photographs opens on 10 March at the Brunei Gallery, Russell Square, London









Above: Indira Gandhi Hospital, Kabul, Afghanistan 1996. Tariq picked up something that looked like a pen. It was a landmine. Top left: Eritrea 1995. At the end of the war, women from all over the country met to discuss a new constitution. Bottom left: After Vietnam. This girl was born in 1991 with no eyes, as a result of the Agent Orange defoliant used by the Americans during the war. Bottom right: A Sandinista soldier,

My first baby was a boy, my second was a book

Writing about the trials and traumas of parenthhood is becoming a whole new genre. Good idea - or just good copy, asks Ann Treneman

you." cries the cover. And it does. Take her become the new journalism. attempts to placate ber newborn daughter: "When she cried inconsolably, her wails loud that I used to be convinced something seriously was wrong with her and feel rising anger and shame at my inability to calm .

that, but what about Figes' own children? When they grow up and read this will they be touched, appalled or just embarrassed? It's a question that more and more authors should be asking themselves.

Ours has been called the age of autobiography and there is no doubt that pubtishing is in the grip of a kind of memoir madness. But writing about your own dreadful childhood (which everyone seems to have had) is not the same as writing about your own dreadful children (which nnbody likes to admit to having). "It may be difficult to write about your parents but it is far, far harder to write about your children," says Melissa Benn, daughter of Tony and author of a new book on motherhood. Madonna and Child. "For starters, you want them in be nice to you for a ling time."

KATE FIGES has written a book that tells True, but editors and publishers aren't bothyou haw horrible it can be in become a ered by such things as they search far femother. "What even your friends won't tell male readers in an age when confession has

Ms Benn is careful to point out that, in her book, she has written only five pages sounded so accusing, so turmented and so on what it was like for her to become a mnther at age 37 and 260 pages on mntherhood in general. Kate Figes, writer and books editur at the Mail on Sunday's You magazine, makes the same point. "I don't Every parent in the land can relate to really write about my children. I write about motherhood," she says. "There isn't that much personal stuff in the book. I felt I had to put myself into it but I didn't want to overdo it and it probably makes up 2 per cent." The process of deciding how personal the book should be took time. In the first draft, for instance, she used her children's names and then decided not to."I

just found that to be too personal." But what about her children reading it? "I did think about that. I think it would be useful and interesting to them. The love is there. That's clear," she says. "I dan't know anything about what my own early years were like." But she does know what it is like to have her own life appear in print because her mother, the novelist and fem-

inist Eva, wrote about ber.



it was for Cosmo, was on teenage sex and she used me and my friends as case stud- a dad (Tony Parsons) writing about his son ies. That was an absolute nightmare. I've nnly just forgiven her!"

She is right to draw a distinction between her book - which is primarily political - and others that are strictly personal. These days we tend to think of the latter in terms of newspaper columns and magazine articles. The March issue of the new women's

glossy, Red, for instance, managed to have and a daughter (Louise France) writing about her dad. No newspaper is complete without at least one mum and dad going on about nappies and school dinners.

Some writers insist that it is okay to write about their children when they are small. teenagers," says Kate Figes. "It is such a promise to never, ever write about sex. She

Kate Figes with daughters Eleanor, 8, and Grace, 4. 'I don't really write about my children, I write about motherhood,' she says. In the first draft of her book she used her children's names, but then changed her mind, finding it 'too personal'

tumultuous time." Times columnist John remembers a few columns that upset her Diamond also sees trouble ahead. "The difficulty will come when the kids learn to read properly," he says. "Both of them have been grist to my journalistic mill since they were born and I don't have a problem writing about them. But I'm very conscious of the columnist whn wrote about his family and had terrible fallings out because his daughter would find her first period the subject of a jocular column, nr his son would have trouble keeping his girlfriends, whn would find themselves dissected nn the page."

The truth is that when the children get nid enough to answer back, the columnists don't stop. But they do at least negotiate first. After all, babies and toddlers demand their rights like a teenager can. Michele Hanson knows all about such things, having writing a column in the Guardian about her teenage daughter Amy (better known as Treasure) for years. "She asked me not to write about her boyfriends or anything too upsetting or anything to do with periods," says Michele. "So I didn't." At one point, when Amy was 13, she gave her a £10 a week research fee. "I figured I couldn't do it without her, so she got a fee."

Amy, now 19, says she appreciated the "But I would never write about them as extra money and she made her mother.

(nr, more likely, her friends). "But the thing is that her articles made me feel that she is quite fun really. Wicked."

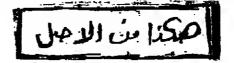
ofesso

Now that Treasure is gning away to university. Michele has started in write about her own mother. "Grandma reacts much worse than I did," says Amy, "One time she refused to speak to mum for a week." All three are featured in Motherland, yet another new book on the subject that is out this week and edited by Ann McFerran.

Katharine Whitehnru says her family got used to the odd mention in the 30-odd years she wrote for the Observer. Her son, Bernard Lyall, now 33, says the family always communicated by notes and letters anyway and he saw this as just the rather public equivalent of that. "In fact," says Katharine, it was the nuly way I could get my son to move out when he was in his twenties. I wrote a column about how young people

never seemed to leave home these days." Bernard doesn't remember it quite that way but he's pretty relaxed about it all. "I think all's fair in love, war and newspapers. It's just good copy." Now that has the ring of truth, though it's not something that many of today's nappy-happy backs like to admit.

Life After Birth is published this week by Viking (£12.99 paperback)



CARLO DIONISOTTI, Professor of Italian at Bedford in the vast reading on which his College, London, from 1949 to opinions had been formed. In a 1970, was one of the greatest Italian literary historians of his laity in Italian literature in the time, indeed, of this century.

He preferred writing articles to writing books. He concensis of 100 authors, remarking, trated first on Renaissance lit- without a trace of irony, that this erature, choosing his subjects number was probably sufficient from areas no one else had pre- the period. No other modern viously considered worthy of Italianist could match that sort study. In addition he devoted of knowledge. particular attention to a few individuals - Bembo, Machiavelli and the great printer Aldus reading of Italian literature led such rock-solid evidence they he ranged wider, with a book on the of his inaugural lecture at 19th-century authors, and sev- Bedford, "Geografia e storia eral contributions on the his- della letteratura italiana" t"Getoriography of Italian literature.

Dionisotti was born in Turin in 1908 and educated at Turin University: among his fellow students were the novelist Cesare Pavese and the historian Arnaldo all major theoretical advances, Momigliano, a lifelong friend, who was Professor of Ancient History at University College London during most of the time that Dionisotti was at Bedford.

Before and during the Second World War. Dionisotti held minor teaching posts in Italian schools and universities; his lack of advancement was doubtless due to his antagonism to Fascism and his refusal to pay lip-service to any ideology or person.

In 1947, at the suggestion of another Piedmontese, A. Passerin d'Entreves, who was Professor of Italian at Oxford, he obtained a post there as Lecturer in Italian: two years later he moved to Bedford as Professor. Over the next two decades ais scholarly reputation grew rapidly, but he remained at Bedford for the rest of his career.

One of his reasons for staying in Britain was that he had raphy - Tuscan, Venetian, Mibecome used to working in the lanese. Roman. Neapolitan. Italian collections of the British The regional or local interests Library, one of the richest, and which moulded writers from one of the best catalogued, in the world. Dionisotti once described the philosopher and explained away; they were part writers of the past. historian Benedetto Croce as "to of the reality of Italian literature. my knowledge, the most formidable reader and interpreter of single-mindedly through the Italian texts since the 18th cen- centuries towards the goal of natury". These words could well be tional unity, as literary historiapplied to Dionisotti himself. ans of the preceding generation, Professor of Italian, Bedford College

particularly of Renaissance texts, gional and extra-regional influfamous article on clergy and based his arguments on an analyoften with striking originality to represent the conditions of

which his omnivorous and close Manutius. After his retirement him was summed up in the ti- transcend ideology. ography and History of Italian literature"). This later became the title of his most important collection of essays, published in 1967. His thesis, obvious, like once it had been expressed, was that before (and even to some

The main conclusion to



Dionisotti: sinewy vigour

Italy, the history of Italian literature, without dissolving into a series of local histories, was indissolubly linked to its goog-Dante to Manzoni were not shortcomings to be excused or

This had not proceeded phy of Halian literature stead. If followed a much more daughters, and one da

ences which it was the job of the literary historian to elucidate.

This concept is now firmly established in Italian literary hisfirst half of the 16th century, he toriography. It is interesting that Dionisotti's position has seemed equally acceptable to historians of every colour - derical, annclerical, Marxist, New Historicist. To some extent, this is due to fear: it is dangerous publicly to disagree with someone whom you suspect knows more about your subject than you do. But his contributions were based on

> Another reason for Dinnisotti's hold on his fellow scholars was the quality of his writing. Most academics are happy to achieve clarity, but his articles have a sinewy vigour which matches the forcefulness of his thought, full of felicities of concept and expression. It is no surprise that his academic writings won him the rare accolade of a literary award, the Premio Viareggio (1989).

After his retirement Dionisotti visited Italy regularly and frequently, extending the impact of his writings by the brio and vigour of his seminars and lectures. These were particularly appreciated by the younger generation of scholars, and will ensure the continuation of his influence for years to come.

Towards scholars in whom he thought he detected sloppiness or pretentiousness Dionisotti could be savage. But for students and colleagues he was a delightful teacher and companion, vivacious, witty, wellinformed about current affairs, full of interest in their concerns.

For me, and for many others, he was a career-long source of inspiration. While we could not match his erudition, nor the incisiveness of his thought, we could at least learn from his integrity, and from the humility with which he approached the

Cada Dionisotti-Casalone, Italian scholair born Turin 9 June 1908; Lecturer, in Italian, Oxford University 1947-49; The roots of his fundamen- in the enthusiasm of the Risorg- 1949-70 (Emerius); FBA 1972; mortal contribution to the histori- imento, had tried to show. In- ned 1942 Meria Pinno-Pintor (three nder decease lay in his profound knowledge. complex path, subject to re- died London 22 February 1998. | attracted the attention of the like Himmat-e-Mard ("A Brave Pune, India 24 February 1998. | Courson: 'cossetting'



Lalita Pawar

LALITA PAWAR played the squint-eyed, scheming and vitriolic mother-in-law to perfection in scores of Indian films in an acting career that spanned nearly 60 years in Bollywood, India's film capital city of Bombay.

The more pronounced her squint the worse matters became for the heroine whose hateful mother-iu-law she played in most of the 600 films in which she featured; this after years as a heroine who personally performed daredevil stunts in numerous silent films.

Pawar played the beloved mother and domineering dowager with equal aplomh, earning kudos and awards, from the late 1940s until six years ago, when failing health and sight forced her to retire to the western Indian city of Pune, 120 miles from her beloved Bombay.

where it was being nimed. She

director, who offered her a Man"), Chevorlet and Captain role. Seven years later, she hecame the heroine in Mahila ("Woman", 1928); she went on to become the leading lady of Bollywood at a time when it was considered improper for women from decent homes to

go into films. A resounding slap on the cheek, delivered by the hero during shooting, cut short Pawar's career as a heroine. The hlow burst a nerve near her eve leading to partial facial paralysis and a permanent squint.

It took her three years to recover, but instead of wallowing in self-pity she used the accident to advantage, to become a character actress who breathed life into whatever role she was cast.

Born into a middle-class family in the central Indian city of Indore in 1914, she Pawar's initiation into films, moved, with her parents to at the age of seven was acci-. Pune. Having made a name for dental. A silent movie was be- herself as a heroine who could ing shot in Pune and the young: perform her own stunts she Amhika Sagun, as she was born, changed her name to Lalita and climbed the wall of the garden in the 1930s acted in a series of successful daredevil silent films

Kishore.

In the mid-1930s she married Ganpatrao Pawar, a film-maker from Bombay and acted in his movies, but the union ended in divorce as he took a fancy to her younger sister. She later married Rai Kumar Gupta, another Bombay film-maker.

After her accident, she witched to character roles and in the Sixties was awarded the prestigious Filmfare Award for her role as Mrs D'sa, the benevolent Christian lady in Anari ("The Novice"). Her other memorable roles included a doting mother in Daag "Spot"), a charming dowager m Professor and Jungli ("Savage") and the prototype nasty mother-in-law in Sau din saas ke ("Hundred Days of the Mother-in-law"). Her last film was Bhai ("Brother") in 1990.

Ambika Sagun (Losto Pawar), actress born Indore, India 1914; married Ganpatrao Pawar (mnrriage dissolved),

Francis Coulson

FRANCIS COULSON was a and reading of Constance Spry deeply sensitive cook. He said and Elizabeth David. He took you needed a light heart to bake pastry-making lessons from a a light cake. He likened pastrymaking to piano-playing. "It is an art that comes as much from making difficult croissants and the heart as the hands," he said.

Coulson completed a remarkable half-century as ownof Sharrow Bay, in Ullswater, Cumbria, the most admired beside the lake which he bought in 1948 set the pattern for a new era of British country hotels, luxurious but homely, stylish but was Egon Ronay's Hotel of the Year as long ago as 1974, and Restaurant of the Year in 1980.

Coulson was born in Bedford into a Quaker family, the son of a draper in the town. He went to Bedford Modern School. Disliking its authoritarianism. he found satisfaction with a tutor learning the organ, but his hopes of pursuing a career in break of the Second World War.

He was a conscientous obector, drafted to forestry work ganisation Toc-H. Here he became responsible for producing 300 meals a day and above all caring for his charges. He'd dition requiring a pacemaker, il found his métier, which he certainly did not seem wise to later described as "cosseting, nourishing and nurturing".

His mother had been a fine pastry-cook. His sister Bessie ran a small hotel and, as a hoy, he had earnt his spurs making omelettes for her. Now, with help from his father, and with his own savings, he bought Sharrow Bay. From its original nine rooms he huilt it up into the internationally acclaimed hotel it is today, with some 30-odd rooms, a member of the lofty Relais and Châteaux group.

As a cook Coulson had few models apart from his family



Cordon Bleu-trained cook, Renee Alkinson. He revelled in brioches as well as more homely scores and cakes. His airy, light sticky toffee pudding could stand er with his partner Brian Sack as an epitaph to him in itself.

One of his proudest dishes was a rich cream dessert he country-house hotel in the named La Stupenda Bavarois, country. The Victorian house dedicated to the great opera singer Joan Sutherland, In 1967 he journeyed to London to pay her this edible tribute in her Covent Garden dressing room unsnobbish. The food, cooked on the opening night of Belliby Coulson, was both elegant ni's Norma. She tucked into it and comforting. Sharrow Bay . with delight. Coulson, always a man of gentle wit, recorded that the after-effects was not so happy, as she struggled with wind throughout her performance.

Twenty-one years ago I met Francis Coulson for the first time. He was already renowned. We were on a plane to Paris, where he was to produce the dessert for a five-course meal organised by the restaurant guide music were dashed by the out- supremo Egon Ronay, designed to put British food on the European map. He was to cook in the kitchens of Maxim's, then before moving to the church or- a citadel of Parisian gastronomy.

Coulson confided that he was extremely nervous. Given that he had a delicate heart consubmit to the pressure of cooking in an unfamiliar kitchen for the combined food crines of Britain and France, not to mention those who were being flown in from the US. .

That wasn't why he was anxious, he said. It was because he was planning to smuggle two gallons of thick Cumhrian dairy cream through French customs. He said he wasn't prepared to compromise his dish by using an inferior product, French cream.

French customs waved him though, and his syllabub with his incomparable shortbread hiscuits was applauded by the several hundred international guests.

Francis Coulson was a thinking cook, among the first to introduce "modern" soups such as tomato and orange. But not so modern that he embraced pink meat or al dente vegetables. Each vegetable, he insisted, had its own quality which should be respected.

Michael Bateman Francis Coulson, chef and hotelier. born Bedford 6 June 1919; MBE February 1998.

Henry Steele Commager

HENRY Steele Commager was in 1931, and in 1987 Comma- ly perfect polity, living realisaa titan of American historiog- ger, then aged \$4, helped Allan raphy of the 20th century. His Nevins carry out the revision for productive career spanned ful- the book's 10th edition, proof ly two-thirds of it: his writings of its enduring appeal as an acleft few tonics in the first 200 cessible work of history. In terms sears of the Republic uncov- of sheer brilliance however, the ered. He was a historian who prize should probably go to The could both examine and explain. American Mind, the 1951 study with a clarity and grace possessed by few of his peers, and traditions that shaped the Unitwhich turned several of his ed States, or the 1974 work Jefbooks into the standard reading of two generations of Enlightenment, or perhaps American students.

Not the most important perhaps, but certainly the most famous was The Growth of the

of the culture and intellectual ferson, Nationalism and the The Empire of Reason which appeared three years later.

As these titles alone suggest. Commager was a believer in American Republic, which he American exceptionalism - that wrote with the late Samuel the country fashioned by the Eliot Morison, it first appeared Founding Fathers was a unique-

tion of what the leaders of the European Age of Enlightenment dreamt of, hut could not achieve on their own scarred

His lodestar was the US Constitution of 1789, by any measure one of the human species' more successful attempts to organise itself, and which Commuger argued was the "greatest monument to political science in literature". The Constitution was the yardstick against which he would judge all statesmen and events, and its violation was the offence he most ahhorred.

That conviction lay behind his forays into the contemporary po-



Commager: history as story

courage, his early and trenehant opposition to McCarthyism (on the grounds that the oaths of loyalty demanded by the Wisconsin senator were an abuse of the Constitution 1-and another of considerable prescience, when he spoke out strongly in 1966 against the US's entanglement in Vietnam.

Again, his point of departure authority it gave Congress over the waging of war. Hence, too, his outrage at Richard Nixon's ahuse of his oath of office. Never, he wrote of Watergate, had an administration "practised deception, duplicity, chicanery and mendacity". Never,

without a firearms certificate.

The appellant's home had

been searched pursuant to a

warrant by six police officers,

three of whom had formerly

been members of the notorious

Drugs Squad based at Stoke

Newington. As a result of the

search £25,000 in cash, a hand-

grounds that the Crown had

terial, and that evidence about

the finding of the cash should

at least one act of much in other words, had a President beld chairs and lectureships at as well." That was a trap into Constitution.

Towards the end of his life, Commager inevitably fell victim to some revisionism. His belief in the Republie's perfect birth was exaggerated, it was said. He was accused of taking too little account of the part of hlacks, Hispanics and the American Indian in the story of his country, was the Constitution, and the and of allowing his trust in logic and reason to hlind him to the role of religion in shaping America. But these are mere quibbles, when set alongside an output of at least 50 books, and countless essays, treatises and

inflicted such injury on the a score of universities in the US and around the world, including both Oxford and Camhridge, where he taught in 1941 and returned as Pitt Professor in American History in 1947-48. He had been since 1972 Simpson Lecturer at Amherst Col-

> Robert Frost and Archibald His most enduring gift was to make history come alive - to wise leave stone cold. "History is a story," he would say, "and if it neglects to tell a story it will

lege, Massachusetts, the post

which Commager never fell. Rupert Cornwell

Henry Steele Commager, historian: born Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 25 Ocof History, Columbia University 1938-56; Lecturer on American His- > previously held by the poets tory, Cambridge University 1942-43,

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Airths, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memorian) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, I Carada Square, Canary Wharf, London Eld 50L, telephoned to 0.071-293 2012 or faued to 0.071-293 2010, and as element at 6.60 a line (VAT extra).

293 2012 or faued to the Art Public, and are charged at 66.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (no-likes, functions, Forthcoming marriages, Marriagen) must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £0 a line, VAT extra. They should be commented by a daytime tele-The OBITUARIES ornali address is

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS ROYAL ENGAGETIET 13
The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh Yest Charle The Duke of York opens the New Command and Control Course at the Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service Head-quoriers, Reading, Berkshiret so President, which the Annual Dinner of the Royal Homehold Golf Club at Twickenham Ruch, Football Ground, Middleses, The Princess Royal, President the Princess Royal, President the Princess Rugal Types for Carets, opens the Sunrise remease Royal, President. the Princess Ruyal Trust for Carers, opens the Suntrise Mobility Fractory, Welliston, near Stour-bridge, West Midlands: attends a meeting of the Anglo-Finnish Rusard Table Soci-cil; at Ditchley Park Conference Centre, Eriston, Deforthaling and, as President. on at Ditchley Park Contervace Central Eriston, Oxfordshiret and as President Animal Health Trust, visits Crutts at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmmeham, and attends the Kennet Crut Luncheon. The Park The Duke of Kent attends a concert in gid of the Prussia Cove International use Seminars, at Courts & Co. Strand, London WC.

Changing of the Guard The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment munts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, Ham: No 7 Company Coldstream Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckinsteam Palace, 11, 30am. Guard at Buckingham Palace, 11, Mam. band provided by the Irish Guards.

Birthdays Dr Madge Adam, astronomer, 86;

Miss Jean Boht, actress, 62: Brigadier Michael Calvert, former SAS commander, 85: Mr William Davis, edi. tor and publisher of High Life, 65; Miss Kiki Dee, rock singer, 51; Lord Dixon, former MP, 69; Professor Sir harles Frank, physicist, \$7; Mr David Gilmour, rock guitarist and singer, 54: Mr Richard Giordano. chairman, BG ple, 64; Sir Alisain Grant, chairman, Scottish & New-castle ple, 61; Professor David Hendry, Professor of Economics, Oxford University, 54: Professor Sir Raymond Hoffenburg, former President, Walfson Catlege, Oxford, 75: Miss Judy Loc. actress, 51: Mr Lorin Maazel, conductor, 58; Sir Hall Miller, former MP. 69: Mr Malcolm Moss MP, 55; Mr John Noakes, ac tor and television presenter, 64: Mr Richard Noble, world land speed poord holder, 52: Mr Peter Roebuck. cricketer, 42: Sir Ian Dixon Scott, for-mer ambassador, 89: The Right Rev David Sheppard, former Bishop of Liverpool, 69: Dame Kiri Te Kanawa. operatic soprano, 54; Mile Valentina Nikolayeva Tereshkova, astranaut. 61; Dr David Whitaker, director, Imperial Cancer Research Fund Trading Ltd, 67: Miss Mary Wilson, singer, 54; Mr. Ann Winterton MP. 57: Sir Oliver Wright, former ambassador in Washington, 77.

Anniversaries Births: Michelangelo (Michelagniolo Buomarroti I, painter, sculptor and poet, 1475; Ehzabeth Barren Browning, poel, 1806; Frankie Howard (Francis Alex Howard), comedian.

1922. Deaths: Davy Crockell, frontiersman, killed at the Alamo 1836; Louisa May Alcott, novelist, 1888; George Formby (William Hoy Booth), singer and comedian, 1961; Melina Mercouri (Amalia-Maria Mercouri), actress and Greek minister of culture, 1944, On this day: Verdi's La Traniana was first per-formed, Venice 1853; British soldiers were granted the right to wear specon or olf duty, 1902; frozen food was first put on sale by the Bird-sere company, 1930: Ghana (formerly the Gold Coast and Topoland) be-came independent, 1957, Today is the Feast Day of Saints Balred and Bilfrid, St Cadrox, St Chrodegang of Meiz, Si Colette, Saints Cyneburga Cyneswide and Tibba, Si Cyril of Constantinopte, St Fridolin, St Ol-legarius or Oldegar and Saints Per-

petua and Felicity.

Tate Gallery: Colin Wiggins, "Bon-nard and the Ageless Woman", 1pm. Gresham College (Barnard's Inn Hall, Londoo ECI): Professor Colin Pillinger, "You Are What You Eat (+3%)". Ipm.

Synagogue services Details of synagogue services to be

held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following, Sabbath begins in London at 5.35pm. United Synagogues 981-343 899. Federation of Synagoguese 981-292 7263. United of Uberal and Progressive Synagogues 977-580 168. Reform Synagogues of Great Britains 978-349 4781, Spanish and Portugueso Jews Congregation: 9771-289 2573. New London Synagogue (Masorti):

litical arena. He would describe himself as an "Independent Democrat". More accurately, he was a Constitutional fundamentalist. The belief generated

press articles.

During his long career, he peal and much of its authority

McLeish.

inevitably forfeit much of its ap-

tober 1902: Professor of History, New York University 1929-38; Professor Pitt Professor of American History 1947-48; Harold Vyvyan Harmsworth Professor of American History, Oxford University 1952: Professor of interest people it might other- American History, Amherst College 1956-72, Simpson Lecturer 1972-92; married 1928 Evan Carroll (deceased; one son, two daughters), 1979 Mary Powlesland; died Arnherst, Massachusetts 2 March 1998.

At the trial it had been ac-

cepted that if it was proved that

the appellant had been in pos-

session of the heroin found in

his bedroom, the jury could in-

fer that he had intended to sup-

ply it. The real issue was not

intent but possession. From

that it had been submitted, re-

lying on Rv Halpin [1996] Crim

LR 112, that as a matter of prin-

ciple evidence about the find-

ing of the £25,000 cash in the

LAW REPORT: 6 MARCH 1998

CPS should have records of police misconduct

Regina v Guney; Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) (Lord justice Judge, Mr Justice Poole, Judge Rant QC, Judge Advocate General) 27 February 1998

RECORDS available to the Crown Prosecution Service should include not only information about convictions of and disciplinary proceedings against police officers, but also transcripts of appeals which had succeeded on the basis of police officers' misconduct or untruthfulness, and of cases which had been dropped on the same basis, to enable disclosure to the

defence in appropriate cases. Evidence of possession of cash should not, as a matter of law, be automatically excluded in cases of simple possession of

missed the appeal of Erkin Guney

have been excluded. Edmund Lawson QC (who did not aypear at trial) and Anal Kelleher (Kaim Todner) for the appellant; David Jeremy The Court of Appeal dis-(Crown Prosociation Service) for the Crown.

against his conviction of possess- Lord Justice Judge said that on the appeal that the de- The safety of the conviction was relevant.

intent to supply, and of possess- form of questions from defence formed of any convictions and ing a firearm and ammunition counsel, the jury had heard ev- disciplinary findings against idence about the Operation Jackpot enquiry into the activities of the Stoke Newington Drugs Squad, but it had not inmation about the three officers

search of the appellant's home. gun and live ammunition, and stance that nothing material heroin with a street value of which required disclosure unabout £750,000, were found in der the rules then in force had a wardrohe. He appealed arisen from that enquiry, nor es which had been stopped by against his conviction on the from a number of prosecutions the trial judge or had been disin which one or other of the continued on the same basis. failed to disclose relevant ma- three officers had been involved and which had been two of the three officers had dropped or had resulted in acquittal, or where a conviction been disclosed, the jury had had been set aside oo appeal. been informed about Opera-No criminal or disciplinary proceedings had been taken jury hardly needed any such re-

against the three officers. ing a Class A controlled drug with during the trial, largely in the fence was entitled to be in- not undermined.

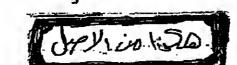
any police officers in the case. However, in addition to convictions and disciplinary findings, the records available to cluded any individual infor- the Crown Prosecution Service should include transcripts of who had been involved in the any decisions of the Court of Appeal in which convictions The Crown had taken the had been quashed on the express basis of misconduct or lack of veracity of identified police officers, as well as of cas-

Although the cases in which been involved should have tion Jackpot. A Sparesbrook It had been rightly argued fully alert to the implications.

wardrobe was inadmissible. Evidence of possession of cash would often lack any probative value. Nevertheless the relevance of any particular niece of evidence should be decided on a case-by-case hasis, and accordingly the court was unable to accept that, as a matter of law, such evidence minder and would have been ed as irrelevant. In the present

must automatically be excludcase, the evidence had been

Kate O'Hanion, Barrister



INDEPENDEN

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Put the trains back on the rails

IT IS now plain that the way the Tories privatised Britain's rail network was scandalous. They conducted a financial exercise: the scheme had minimal regard for the interests of rail passengers and maximal concern for quick profits. Here was short-termism of the very worst kind. Evidence for the charge comes from the National Audit Office. Its figures for the profits garnered by train and franchise buyers who just happened to be in the right place at the right time to take advantage of Tory largesse almost beggar belief. To make a 220-fold gain on the back of public assets has nothing to do with enterprise or imagination. The only market involved was one in assiduity in how best to rip the state off. Rail privatisation, we now can see, was a kind of legalised theft. The scale of windfall gains occludes the moral climate and diminishes the capacity of the state in other contexts to pursue income-tax evaders and social security fraudsters.

And evidence also comes from the markets, from the extraordinary spectacle of the directors of a company - Great Western - standing to make millions after having provided the public with mediocre or downright unreliable service. Meanwhile the Health and Safety Executive has got as far as preparing prosecutions against Railtrack which - simultaneously and with tender regard for the public's well-being - announces it intends cutting the amount it spends on repairs and maintenance by £80m a year. We learnt, months ago, that the Transport Secretary, Gavin Strang, is a cipher. This hall is in the court of the deputy prime minister, John Prescott, and the salient question is not that he should act - he must, if only to reassure the travelling public that they are not going to be either gouged or killed - but how.

There is nothing wrong with the principle of private ownership of infrastructure, provided a regulatory regime is in place to control fares and ensure safety and reliable service. What the Tories bequeathed New Labour was not just a financial catastrophe but regulatory confusion. Why are there separate regulators for track and passenger franchises? Rail regulation ought to be unified, expert, omniscient and passionately devoted to the development of rail transport. Instead it is fragmented, amateur and all too prone to have the wool pulled over its eyes.

Having blocked the sale of Great Western, Mr Prescott must now lean on John Swift, the track regulator and John O'Brien, the man responsible for the passenger franchises. They have to sharpen up. How could First Group, or anyone else, have been allowed to pay a price for Great Western which is inflated by its failure to perform according to contract? The regulator surely must revalue the company at its performance price - a damn sight lower. And the oew franchisee has to be told in oo uncertain terms that fines and public obloquy will fall swift and fast if service does not improve.

Mr Prescott bas two further tasks, one backward-looking and one developmental. The National Audit Office has laid a heavy set of charges at the door both of the Tory Transport Secretary Sir George Young and his officials, none of whom even dreamt of blowing a whistle in the hearing of the Comptroller and Auditor-General. We have, in Britain, a no-fault culture in Whitehall, but can Mr Prescott afford not to ask some searching questions about his civil servants' handling of rail privatisation? As for Sir George Young, if the Public Accounts Committee does not subject him to the fiercest interrogation it will be failing in its duty. The least the Blair government can do is order an immediate moratorium on all those For-. eign Office sponsored trips by gurus (and former civil servants) to eastern Europe preaching to them oo how to privatise.

But for the future. Mr Prescott has a railway to run and a network to expand. There are alternative regimes for track and passenger service which could ensure more investment and better performance. His saddest inheritance from the Tories is a culture of under-performance among the franchisees and the arrogant way certain companies ignore complaints and, still, prefer excess profit to providing the public with fast and safe trains.

Marry in haste...



WE KNOW the Prime Minister approves of marriage and wants to promote it - without in any way easting aspersions on those of his colleagues who are less fortunate than he on the conjugal front. The question is, how to get the message across. He and Cherie appeared on the step of No 10 Downing Street for a photocall the other day, holding a single red rose to advertise National Marriage Week. Is that going to stop people hurrying into unsuitable matches, or suing for divorce the first time the top is left off the toothpaste tube? Hardly.

Now we have the solution. The Wildenstein Solution. All the Government has to do is to draw the moral from the divorce of Alec and Jocelyne Wildenstein. Alec W. from a family worth billions of dollars, claims to carn \$175.000 a year, although New York court depcs tions show he and: his wife spent \$16m in 1995 and \$1 im the next year. She claimed she needed \$2.4m a year, partly because she did not know how to make toast or boil water. He complained that her insatiable appetite for plastic surgery "submitted us to public ridicule".

That's it: ridicule. Jack Straw could compile a fact pack on the couple's embarrassment and humiliatione for his parenting classes. And another on Earl Spencer's divorce case in South Africa, when his wife accused him of having had 12 mistresses and threatened to call them all to give evidence. That should put them off.



Trick shot: 'Walking Gun', by the American photographer Laurie Simmons is one of the images collected in the book 'From the Heart: The Power of Photography, A Collector's Choice; The Sondra Gilman Collection'. Published by Aperture, it is distributed in the UK by Robert Hale, price £22

Time to help Iraq

NOW THAT, for a while at least, the threat of British military intervention in Iraq has receded, attention should turn urgently to the long-term prospects for the country.

The effect of current UN sanctions on the civilian population is counterproductive and indefensible. Allowing the people of Iraq to suffer malnutrition and poor health is like refusing food and medicine to the passengers in a hijacked plane, but it is not the only effect. Little has been said about the educational damage being Professor of Assyriology, University inflicted on the country, though this is serious. The existence of sanctions has also fostered the illicit plundering of major archaeological sites and

the export of important antiquities. manitarian exemptions to the saincjustifiable and impolitic, and must intensive and sustained monitoring of imports of military weapons and materials, while enabling the necessary emergency programme to get

medicine and food to the population. In the long term, change for the better in Iraq will only come from within the country. Let us release the population from their fight for survival and allow them to recover their former civilised standards of health. nutrition and education. At present we are creating a giant Gaza strip, with untold dangers for the future. Professor AKBAR AHMED Selwyn College, Cambridge PATRICK COLLINSON Regius Professor Emeritus in Modern History, University of Cambridge Dr G C HARCOURT Jesus College, Cambridge

Professor CLIVE HOLES Oriental Institute, University of Oxford Dr CAROLINE HUMPHREY

King's College, Cambridge TARIF KHALIDI Sir Thomas Adams's Professor of Arabic, University of Cambridge Professor NICHOLAS LASH Faculty of Divinity, University of

LETTERS

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number. Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Cambridge DT.AUGUSTA McMAHON Newnham College, Cambridge Dr JOHN MILBANK Reader in Philosophical Theology, University of Cambridge NICHOLAS POSTGATE

Millennium bug

BARBARA ROCHE, the Depart-Despite official statements, the hu- ment of Trade and Industry minister, is spot-oo in advocating deliberately harsh interpretation and . called millennium bug. However, obstructive administration. This is unpressed government to start an urcease. In the short term it cannot be gent programme in July last year. impossible for the UN to maintain Nothing happened. And after an article by your political editor, Tony Bevins, in September, our DTI money was terminated.

> Since then, the Government has slowly been adopting our recommendations. But we are now eight months nearer to the merciless deadline. Therefore, what needs to he done has changed. Unfortunately; the Government seems not to understand that. We suggest, therefore, that it may not be in the best position to provide the lead to the EU that is so badly needed. ROBIN GUENTER . Executive Director .

Taskforce 2000 London EC3

Woodward appeal

THE JUDGES of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts are hearing appeals arising from Judge Zobel's controversial judgment in the Louise Woodward case. We suggest that the international community in its reaction to the deliberations of the court bear in mind two apparent breaches of fundamental law oo

expert professional opinion. What al" use of cannabis (the medicinal use does concern here is the conflict of is an entirely separate issue). evidence knowingly presented by a prosecution whose duty it was to demonstrate consistent expert evisonable idoubt. The prosecution knew before they went to trial that! regular abusers is obvious: their medical examiner, Dr Gerald Feigin, was in total disagreement with Douglas, Isle of Man other prosecution witnesses both as to the extent of the force required to produce the scull damage and the

ure of the trial judge to ensure that breach of that most fundamental principle of fair trials, parity of arms between prosecution and defence.

In normal circumstances one would expect an order for a retrial, but it is hard to envisage, given intense publicity and debate surrounding the original trial, as a practical possibility: STEPHEN JAKOBI

Director The Fair Trials Abroad Trust Richmond, Surrey

Dangers of cannabis

R E STEBBING (letters 25 February) echoes fashionable but misin- I NEVER never thought that Lord formed opinion by claiming that "the evidence that cannabis is non-habitoverwhelming".

nently addressed to the authorities in those tropical countries where number of reports from such reply so far. sources, including a survey com- MARK RIMMELL. The presumption of innocence missioned by the United Nations, London N19 .

that in fact revolves entirely around of a lax attitude to the "recreation-

The drug is readily available in dence putting the facts beyond rea- refuse to touch it because of its de-ANTONY ALEXANDER

Trees on the march

PATRICK NAISH (letter, 4 M The most obvious, perhaps in- asks what will happen to the land if peranto. I have used it in Amstercurable, flaw in the trial was the fail- farmers go out of business. The an- dam, Prague, Helsinki and Reykjavik swer is simple: forestry. Foresters and have had contacts with Esperthe jury, despite their repeated re- have been critical about agriculture antists of many other countries inquests, were given parallel defence for decades, particularly the depending China and Japan. evidence after they were given pros-dence of farmers on subsidies (conecution medical evidence. It was veniently ignoring the tax available to forest owners). For them the current crisis is long awaited.

sidered alternatives to agriculture antists laugh with the rest of us! over much of the uplands of this PETERGHAYWARD country? Aside from the obvious implications to hirds such as the skylark, the proposed right to roam becomes of academic interest if it involves roaming through thicketstage Sitka spruce. JOHNLLOYD

Llandovery, Carmarthenshire

My offer to the nation

Chancellor Irvine and I had so much in common. I too have a fondness for forming and less damaging than the odd Turner, Picasso or Rodin. I beroin, tobacco and alcohol is now too am quite willing to open my home for a few days a year in ex-The question has been perti- change for displaying a few neglected art treasures. I too have been in touch with the keepers of our varcannabis abuse has been endemic. A. ious national museums. Strangely, no

Modern Latin

IAN FLINTOFF (letter, 4 March) is . probably right that classical literary Latin is too complex to be used as a common European second language. Not even the Romans used it for everyday speech, preferring a much has always been at the heart of a case have warned the West of the dangers : simpler version now known as Vulgar Latin, the ancestor of today's Romance languages. This dialect could certainly be taught to schoolchildren.

By adopting Latin as a common these countries because it grows as 'second language, each nation would a weed, but most indigenous people be free to maintain its own rich vernacular tradition, while gaining acmotivating and dispiriting effect on cess to a magnificent common cultural heritage. If we really want to find a European identity, this is a good place to start. ROGER WORDSWORTH Kirkham, Lancashire

Syntactically, it is easier than English, and entirely phonetic. Your concessions and planting grants original article joked about Greeks and Estonians being the last to laugh because of re-translation prob-Has the Government even con- lems. Greek and Estonian Esper-Bournemouth, Dorsel

erit dewi

THERE IS no need to go for a highly artificial language like Esperanto when Europe's natural common language, Latin, is perfectly intelligible without its decleasions and conjugations and Ciceronian syntax. The Italian mathematician Giuseppe Peano demonstrated this 90 years ago in his Latino sinc flexione, which lives on as Interlingua. PUSTEWART

St. Anne's College, Oxford

. IF WE are to have a Euro-language. there is surely one language already in existence which is supra-national. which would remind us of the wisdom of the past, encourage us in high ideals in the future and both look and sound beautiful. May I propose Elvish? JUNE WYTON

God, sex, Kafka and roof racks – all made clear by traditional Albanian wisdom



AS REGULAR readers will know. I have In the country of the blind, the optician theatre programmes, wine in a pub and Whatever the commonest tree is in your Language always lags behind technology. always had a weakness for Albanian starves. proverbs, which have a paradoxical nature typical of a country which managed . A tennis ball is used for many different. A roof rack is mildly useful for carrying to be an atheist state for so many years despite the majority of the population being Muslim. Our British proverbs tend to be sensible-sounding without having much to teach us. Albanian proverbs are quite the opposite: opaque at first sight, but untritious after much

chewing. Anyway, judge for yourself in this latest cropping from the Great Book of Albanian Proverbs

No great comedy hit ever had a comic ti-

Prayer-time: the only time when a Christian comes out in the open and tells God

activities, but a cricket ball is used only for.

Never stand between a dog and a tree.

Show me a king or queen who can hum their national anthem backwards, and I'll show you a man or woman who is too. smart to be a monarch.

A boomerang that returns is a reproach to its owner, for it is a boomerang that has The most successful and yet most unobmissed its target.

There are many more people who use the word "Kafkaesque" than ever read Kafka.

a National Lottery ticket.

luggage, but it is extremely useful for identifying your car in a large car park.

The person most dependent on road transport is a hitch-hiker, yet he is the one person who is never mentioned in traffic

Which came first: the pencil or the pen-.

trusive lobby group of all time is the movement dedicated to keeping angling out of the Olympic Games.

What question would you pay Martin Bell Three things that are a waste of money: to ask in Parliament?

country, it is not as common as ivy.

When a bostage is released, nobody ever asks the captor to write a book about the

There is nothing more talked about by men than sex, or less practised.

Who ever heard of a man being trained to lead a blind dog around?

Soft, pliable, easily moulded - all the definitions for "plastic" given in the dictionary, and all the things that plastic is not.

Cuba must be an awful place. Nobody has hijacked a plane to go there for years.

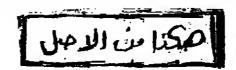
Yes, but should anyone WANT to grasp

We still say "full steam ahead", and we still call it a "telegraph" pole.

In four hundred years the Italians have turned the tomato into the basis for the best cooking in the world. In the same period the Americans have turned it into ketchup.

All these quotations taken from the Great Book of Albanian Proverbs, 1998

Yesterday I wrote that "The Seckers" films represent one of the peaks of twentieth-century art." This should have been, of course, "De Sica's films represent one of the peaks of twentieth-cen-



It's time Mr Cook applied his ethics to China



DONALD MACINTYRE

An angry dissident brings a message for us all: defend human rights, whatever it costs

FATE has delivered The Times an ideal opportunity to demonstrate the robustness of its China coverage, forcefully reaffirmed yesterday by its editor Peter Stothard. Next week Wei Jingsheng, China's Sakharov, comes to Britain. The arrival from the US of the People's Republic's leading dissident, exiled after 18 years in jail, to give a lecture at pointed out that those who have agitated for St Authony's College, Oxford, on Tuesday and meet Rohin Cook on Wednesday, is an important event. Wei has, as it happens, become unwittingly caught up in Rupert Murdoch's pervasive China interests. He was to have contributed a chapter to a book which Harper Collins has put on hold after the indefensihle dumping of East and West by Chris Patten, the former governor of Hong Kong. The second book was planned to commemorate em attitudes to a UN resolution. He said that Amnesty International's 40th anniversary he had noticed bow his own prison conditions and, given its subject, would be almost comically incomplete without the sort of authoritative account of human rights abuses in the ing China over its abysmal human rights largest Communist regime in the world that Wei would have contributed. But the importance of his visit goes well beyond that. For Wei arrives in London an angry man, who will have a good deal to talk about with the Foreign Secretary.

Last week in Brussels, the EU's 15 foreign ministers approved a carefully worded declaration on China. It reflected a compromise, brokered by Cook in the chair, between those countries like France, and less publicly Germany, that oppose, for more or less nakedly commercial reasons a hard line against China on human rights, and those such as Denmark and Holland which have been historically outspoken about the manifold abuses perpetrated by the Peking regime. The outcome was a testament to Cook's skill as a chairman, for which he is steadily building a reputation during the sincerity on human rights is real. He explained British EU presidency. It goes further than in Brussels that Peking had now said it the doves like France would have liked but would allow a visit by Mary Robinson, the UN a good deal less far than Denmark would have High commissioner on Human Rights; and preferred. But it also reflected a shift from that whether the EU would press a UN resthe British government's position before the olution next year would depend on progress election. For several years now Britain has -including the release of political prisoners. joined the US in submitting a strongly criti- But the necessary coalition may be even more cal resolution on human rights in China to the annual UN Human Rights Commission much better time to harden the line is at the in Geneva. This year it will not be doing so. Indeed the EU communiqué says explicitly that neither the British presidency nor any other member state will submit any such

resolution have annually been pressed with

Hurd and Malcolm Rifkind, with the strongest backing from Patten during his govemorship. This year, however, their case found more of an echo; Cook had spoken after the election of Britain's building a new relationship with China and submission of yet another probably doomed human rights resolution would not exactly help her to do so. The principal argument from corporatists and China hands among ministers and officials was that - thanks to diplomatic and commercial pressure from China - the resolution was invariably voted down, so pressing it threatened the trading interests of countries pressing it without any gain.

But Wei doesn't see it that way. In Le Monde on Wednesday he expressed his "deep indignation" at the "quite stupefying" EU foreign ministers' decision and was withering about the idea that his own release last year indicated that human rights were improving in the largest, and one of the most repressive states in the world. As well he might have been given that the EU decision came at the same time as fresh exposure of the gruesome sale of human organs by Chinese agencies and the arrest of further dissidents in the run-up to the People's National Congress this week. Wei democracy since the Tiananmen Square massacre are watched and persecuted on a daily basis by the secret police. And he declared that the "values of Western politicians are in retreat so that they can adapt themselves to Chinese criteria". Which was not surprising since in a long conversation in London with Patten in January Wei had dwelt on the huge importance attached by Peking to Westhad improved whenever leading Western, including EU countries, were publicly attackrecord. All the signs, in other words, are that China reacts to pressure better than to the increased "dialogue" the EU is now proposing. All this Patten privately passed on to the

Foreign Office shortly afterwards. The supposed threat to trade with China from a robust attitude to human rights is anyway extremely doubtful. Between 1992 and 1997 when Patten was incurring the wrath of China hands such as Sir Percy Cradock and others by pressing for democracy in Hong Kong trade with China doubled. The drive to realise China's potential as a market probably isn't much affected one way or the other by a tough line on human rights.

The shift of policy towards China certainly wasn't Cook's alone and no doubt reflects the business orientation of New Labour. Cook's difficult to assemble next year than last. A Cardiff summit in June. Wei is likely to tell Cook on Wednesday that they are now crowing in Peking. Labour was always forthright on the need for South African sanctions. It rightly urged the Thatcher government to lis-The arguments against submitting such a ten to Nelson Mandela whatever the alleged economic costs. If ethical foreign policy is to great force in Whitehall, but were in the end be more than a soundbite Cook needs to lisalways overruled by, successively, Douglas ten very hard to Wei on Wednesday.

The bombers are among us and we'll never know their names

Brainy, barmy outsiders want to wreak revenge on society. And now, says David Aaronovitch, they have the anonymous

cyber-help to do it

IT'S BAD enough when the harassed supermarket check-out girl hurls your yoghurts on top of your eggs while you scramble shoulder-deep in plastic bags, trying desperately to pack your shopping, before the mineral water obliterates both your comestibles. But now you can't even go to Sainsbury's without some lunatic

trying to blow you up.
On Wednesday another explosive device went off close to a hranch of the store in the London suburb of Forest Hill. The police said that it "bore all the hallmarks" of the Mardi Gra bomber (is there - in the East End perhaps - some little unshaven underworld explosives expert, who spends his life chiselling ini-tials or symbols on the sides of bombs

attesting to their quality?). We will return to this scourge of suburban shoppers later, for, by interest-ing coincidence, also on Wednesday two other ominous things happened; one in the English Home Counties, and the other - as reported in this newspaper - in the United States. In Bexleyheath, Kent, two 16-year-old boys were questioned about three blasts in just over a fortnight, caused by home-made pipebombs. A search turned up some chemicals and three more unexploded bombs.

At a guess these probably bore all the halfmarks of naughty schoolboys.

And over the water the Americans were experiencing "cyherterror", a rather overblown phrase for the temporary freezing of a few terminals.

Nevertheless the implication of the attack - that somebody could and would use the Internet to disable vital operating systems from afar - caused unsurprising consternation.

Join the dots together and it's all a bit worrying, isn't it, this pattern of anonymous assaults? Since 1994, when he first wrapped six devices in Christmas paper and delivered them to Barclays bank, Mardi Gra has been credited with 33 attacks. One of his current tricks appears to be leaving a shopping bag with a bomb in it at bus-stops, where old ladies and others pick them up along with their own shopping, and cart them back to Dunroamin for unpacking. Such a strategy does not suggest a kind heart. The explosions are bound to get bigger and louder and better publicised until some poor innocent sod dies. He reminds one irresistibly of the reclusive maths don Ted Kaczynski - the Unabomber - who killed several people with bombs mailed from his kennel in the mountains of Montana.

Meanwhile the cyberterrorists are on the march. Some of the worries about their activities can sound silly. One site warns that cyberterrorists could do you over when, "all those electronic publications you've subscribed to are mys-



teriously vaporised, because somebody discovered your passwords and unsubscribed you". Bang goes your passport to an unbiased survey of international news courtesy of The Times. You'll survive. However the potential impact, variously, of viruses, worms, logic bombs, Bots, and SYN attacks, has led the US National Security Agency to employ 1,000 cyberdefenders in "an information warfare department". The worry is that

frastructure protection, is quoted as warning that "the capabilities to launch an attack against the nation's information infrastructures are now quite widespread, and an attack is probably not that far away". All right. There's the threat. But who are these guys? Why are they doing all this? On Thursday the police described the hunt for the Mardi Gra bomber as being like looking for a "small needle in a very large haystack". Not

Each section began with an introduction like Letter bombs have the great advantage that you can send them anywhere in the world'

magazine, "cripple the United States information infrastructure during the shoppers. "We don't know why he's doheight of holiday travel. Onboard computers could redirect planes into conflicting flight paths. Subway systems could he shut down or reprogrammed for collision. And that's just for starters," Philip LaCombe, the director of the President's commission on critical in-

teen backers could, according to E least because there seemed to be no motive for wanting to blow up Sainsbury's ing it!" one officer said plaintively on television on Thursday.

They'd done their profiling though and come up with "a husiness man with a grudge". Yessss, It is certainly true that such profiling worked for Kaczynski, but the husinessman theory seems farTed Kaczynski, Unabomber: The reclusive maths don malled bombs from his kennel in Montana. Now he has imitators all over the internet

Photograph: AP

fetched. What does seem likely is that Mardi Gra is educated, inadequate and - above all, alienated. Contemporary capitalist society with its emphasis on achievement and materialism and its destruction of community has given hirth to a whole geological stratum of brainy. barmy, outsider-type guys who want to see how far they can - alone and unassisted - take on and defeat that society. Scary.

Very scary because it's so easy to do. So let me warn you that, should you write me one of those whining, complaining letters that readers sometimes do pointing out some minor error of fact or interpretation - don't put your address on it. Because I could kill you.

Today, as I sat here at my terminal, I put two words into an Internet Search Engine and discovered how to blow you up. The author of the article in ouestion confided in me how to build a homemade shotgun shell mine, a driveway pipe mine and - best of all - a letter bomh. Using language as accessible as that of a Blue Peter presenter, he told me what to huy, bow to put a device together and even how to tailor it to my own specialised needs. Did I want shrapnel, or would I rather do without? Each helpful section began with a general introduction, as in "Letter bombs have the great advantage that you can send them anywhere in the World. I have successfully mailed these throughout North America." Then a practical DIY hit: "To make a letter bomh the way I do ... fold over the open end of the envelope and staple it closed once or twice." And the advice ended in a final encouraging flourish: "Mail it off to your

target and when they open it and try to remove the papers ... BOOM!" If this gives you nightmares then there are ways that you can guard against such unwelcome packages. A Net security site suggests that you waich out for: grease stams, too many stamps (the last thing a bomber wants is for the dann thing to be returned stamped "inadequate postage"), if it is mailed from an unfamiliar location" - like Berleyheath

for instance - or if there is the odour of almonds.

But what is truly amazing about this Doomsday stuff - given the alienation, the anonymity, the availability of the technology, society's vulnerability and all that - is how remarkably little it happens. Compare the incidence of Mardi Gra explosions, teenage suhurban bombers and cyberterrorism with those other activities that tell of male disaffection: lobhing concrete off motorway bridges, stabbing people outside discos, or - most common of all - filling the car with carbon monoxide while still inside it. Whose hallmarks do these sad ac-

Don't swap the slavery of the hearth for a yoke of work



YVONNE ROBERTS

Women languish on the economic margins. This Budget should address their needs nation's housekeeping has been assessed from an overwhelmingly male perspective, I feel almost churlish raising criticisms of a Budget billed as being for women and children.

Recognition of concerns such

as childcare; the promise of a minimum wage; a female voice that government finally hears what more can a girl want? Well, quite a lot. New Labour makes much of the desirability of work. But women who nevor move into the joh market are already in work as unpaid labourers. As housekeepers, carers and mothers what they do may not yet be valued by economists and incorporated into the GDP, but it matters.

This is, after all, the gov-

AFTER decades in which the erument that says it cares about fits such as maternity pay and charges - a third for governsocial cohesion. It should support those at the sharp end of keeping communities together with more than warm words.

Brown should also signal his

realization that for those women who do work, the pattern of paid employment is very different from that of men. Forty-five per cent of them work part-time, frequently because of their family commitments. The majority in this low-paid sector tend to get stuck there, in the quicksand of aspirations. Low paid work also means that over two million women earn less than £62 a week. This is the lower earnings limit on the payment of national insurance and as such the gateway to a number of bene-

pensions. Let's hope Brown lowers the threshold and cuts the link between maternity pay and national insurance alto-

Women retraining or studying need childcare grants. If mothers don't improve their qualifications they are stuck in a low-pay rut for life. Tax relief on childcare is equally important. None seems to he promised. In France, parents also have access to statesalaried childminders who are paid the minimum wage. We need such imaginative measures here and a further spreading of the burden of childcare

Will Brown find ways to encourage employers to split

ment, a third for the individual, and a third for the boss? And why not have paid parental and paternity leave. It is time that we recognized that caring for offspring is a father's con-

cern too.

If the interests of women and children are truly to come first, instead of Working Family Tax Credit (topping up low pay via employers and the Inland Revenue) there should he a significant increase in child benefit, taxed for high earners. Child benefit is fraudproof and it gives a mother the choice of staying at home or paying for childcare. Britain has 5.5 million carers: why not give them an allowance within the working family tax credit too?

The requirements of women and children have been pushed to the margins of economic life for too long. We do not need policies that aim only to drive more women into the world of work, but to change conditions so that they fit the obligations and aspirations of women

themselves. At the same time, the right to be a full time mother should be supported - otherwise the "good" mother will soon rank only as the waged mother. That is no advance for feminism, nor for children New Labour rightly preaches liberation from benefits. But if the only alternative is a lifetime of slavery on low wages, followed by an old age on a piddling pension, that is no progress at all.

covergirl Caprice Bourret. Is this historic building - a third the size of Harrods, whose refurbishment is costing millions of pounds - destined to be a palatial new home for Tchenguiz? Remembering the reports of how Caprice and he



Bobby's girl

were violently mugged one evening last April while walking home in Hampstead, Pandora rang him. No, he insisted, he was not moving to Kensington

Gore. "I won't say anything at all about this house until it's ready in six or nine months' time." What is the big mystery? All Pandora's wiles failed to persuade



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WORLD VISION

HARPERCOLLINS'S chief Eddie Bell, who was blamed by his boss Rupert Murdoch for the fiasco over Chris Patten's book on Hong Kong. is a tough but genial Scot. He won't need counselling to repair his fragile feelings. But the publisher might try reading a book to find some consolation. Parakora has a particular tome in mind: The Victory by Pamela Williams, which chronicles the March 1996 Australian election in which John Howard crushed Paul Keating. The Murdoch press was particularly unhelpful to Keating during the campaign. According to the book, "Kenting unsisted Rupert Murdoch had telephoned him the day after the electun to apologise that we got it wrong: correction - Ken got it wrong - a reference to Ken Cowley, chief executive of Murdoch's Australian operations." Clearly Murdoch's men around the world should know by now exactly who foots the hill when things

g garage and the

go wrong - they do. Sadly for Eddie Bell, this tale has no happy ending. Ken "Got It Wrong" Cowley left Murdoch's employ last year and was replaced by Rupert Murdoch's son

MICHAEL Foster's, Labour MP, sees his anti-hunting Bill return to the Commons today, although it is highly unlikely that the Government will find time for it. His chief adviser on the Bill is one John Bryant, author of a book which declares "pet animals should be completely phased out of existence". Bryant is also a consultant to the International Fund for Animal Welfare, whose political wing (the Political Animal Lobby) donated £1m to the Labour Party. Is the Government really concurred about the country. side lobby or worried lest another Ecclestone-like donation scandal arises should it enable Foster and Bryant's

Bill to become law?



A USUALLY reliable source informed us, wrongly it turns out, that Geoffrey Robertson QC was the new chairman of the anti-monarchy Common Sense Club, whose members include journalists Roy Greenslade and Anthony Holden and PR gladiator Brian Bashem. Twe been to a few of their din-ners but ... is that really a position?" Robertson is an outspoken republican and regards "a hereditary head of state as unsatisfactory as a hereditary poet". en down into some cellar and shot or Wonderbra model and men's magazine

something." His ideal solution is a written constitution. "I suggest we turn the Millennium Dome over to a Constitutional Convention after the exhibition." It sounds a good idea to Pandora. Why not skip the tasteless exhibition and hold the noble convention in its place?

ONE of the most fortunate men in Britain is refurbishing what promises to be one of London's most spectacular new homes, directly adjacent to the Albert Hall on the site of the former Royal College of Organists. Robert Tchenguiz, together with his brother Vincent, runs the multi-million-pound property group Rotch. Like several other phenomenally successful modern Brits, including the Saatchi brothers and Alan Yentob, Tchenguiz has an Iraqi Jewish background, although his father Victor came to Britain via Iran where he was a friend of the Shah. Not only He doesn't want to see the Royals 'tak- is Robert very rich, but his girlfriend is

this lucky man to say another word.

Pandora

24/BUSINESS

BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR, JEREMY WARNER NEWS DESK: 0171-293 2636 FAX: 0171-293 2098 E-MAIL: INDYBUSINESS@INDEPENDENT.CO.UK FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

ord Simpson's battle to revive defence glant

Sept 9, 1996: George Simpson takes over as managing director from Lord Weinstock on a salary package potentially worth £10m over five years

GEC prepares to launch £5bn telecoms and defence strike

By Michael Harrison

GEC is gearing up for a £5bn expansion that is likely to see the defeoce electronics and engineering group buy out Siemens' minority stake in their telecoms joint venture and launch a strike for a US military about £2bn, meaning it would cost GEC supplier. GEC is also looking to merge two of its four remaining industrial electronics businesses with rival companies. The remaining two would be disposed of along with GEC's 50 per cent interest in its domestic appliances joint veoture with GE of the United States.

The shift in strategy by Lord Simpson, managing director of GEC, follows growing impatience at the slow pace of European defence and aerospace consolidation. GEC expects to seal its defeace electronics joint venture between Marconi and Alenia of Italy before the 31 March deadline set by the British, French and German governments for Europe's defence industries to produce a firm restructuring plan.

GEC would eventually like to take control of the Alenia joint venture which will be worth an estimated £2bn. But it is Avery Berkel. Together the businesses deeply sceptical about the prospects for progress in European-wide aerospace restructuring elsewhere.

The two US defence husinesses that GEC is eyeing up are Litton Industries and ITT Industries, which are valued respectively at \$2.8bn (£1.7bn) and \$4bn. However, rising US stock markets have made both businesses expensive takeover propositions. In addition, Litton has an extensive

warship building business, in which GEC is not interested, while ITT has a big automotive division making brake and chassis systems, which GEC would need to dispose of.

GPT, the telecoms joint vecture with Siemens, is reckoned by analysts to be worth £800m to buy out the German group's 40 per ceot stake.

Discussions have made a certain amount of progress since Lord Simpson launched his strategic review of GEC last July. But they are bogged down by what one insider de-scribed as Siemens' "inertia and conservatism". Although the two companies are portners, Siemens also regards GPT as a competitor to its own telecoms businesses. The joint venture recently lost a £300m order from Belgium because of Siemens refusal to supply technological know-how to GPT The four industrial electronics businesses

are Picker, which makes medical imaging systems, Gilbarco. the world's largest petrol-pump manufacturer, Videojet Systems, which makes ink jet printers, and the of its stake in GEC Alsthorn, the power and weighing and instrumentation business have sales of about £1.5bo a year. In the first half of this year Picker, Gilbarco and Videojet made pre-tax profits of £59m on venture, which makes Hotpoint washing sales of £600m while Avery Berkel improved machines, will also be sold eventually, the profits substantially due to a restructuring. GEC would ideally like to huild two of the price from GE. four companies into world-scale husinesses and dispose of the other two.

Last month GEC raised £3.9bn through a revolving credit facility, the first to be de- acquire one of its US defence targets. How- having increased in value five-fold to

net cash in the group and expects to raise a further £1bn when it floats 26 per cent transportation joint venture, this June. Dis-, posals of unwanted industrial husinesses have netted £300m and although GEC's share in the domestic appliances joint

difficulty will be extracting an acceptable and cash would give GEC more than enough firepower to huy out Siemens and

whether it should proceed with a merger with British Aerospace.

April, 1997: Overhauls management structure, dispensing with mortifly-reporting into head office from every business unit. French government rules out GEC as participant in privatisation of

July, 1997: Reports 28 per cent fall in pre-tax profits for 1997 from £981m to £707m. Unvells strategic review to focus group on defence, telecoms and flodustrial electronics and signals flotation of GEC Alsthorn. David Newlands resigns as finance director.

August, 1997: Sir Richard Needham resigns from board. John Mayo recruited from Zeneca as finance director.

Lord Simpson is thought to see certain advantages in a merger. The combined group would have sales of £19bn, giving it sufficient scale to compete with the US defence goliaths Raytheon, Lockheed Martin and Boeing. It would also demonstrate

But Lord Simpson has yet to be per-The combination of credit facilities suaded that it would unlock shareholder value for GEC, oow that a merger would be much closer to a marriage of equals, BAe en months work in 1996-97 including a dis-

nominated in euros. It also has £1.2bn of ever, the group is continuing to examine £8.2bn in the last five years. Over the same period GEC has increased in value by less than a third to £11bn.

October, 1997: Loses out in bid battle for Siemens defence to British Aerospace and Daimler-Benz.

December, 1997; GEC and Alcatel confirm plans to float 26 per cent stakes in GEC Alsthorn in summer, 1998.

Announces £300m share buyback

January, 1998: Sir Roger Hum confirmed as chairman to succeed Lord

Feb. 1998: Completes disposal of unwanted industrial businesses with £137m sale of semiconductor business GPS to Mitel, increasing self-off proceed to £300m. Raises £3.9on revolving craditional control in purpose.

Since Lord Simpson took over from Lord Weinstock in September 1996, GEC shares have unperformed the market by nearly a quarter. Lord Simpson's bonus payments, which could bring him a £10m pay packet over five years, are only triggered to the French that Britain was serious about if GEC outperforms the market by 10 per ent for a period of three years and remains in the top quartile of the FISE100 judged on total shareholder return. Nevertheless. Lord Simpson still earned £1.1m for sevcretionary bonus of £160,000.

Rolls-Royce shrugs off threat of **US** alliance

By Michael Harrison

ROLLS-ROYCE yesterday shrugged off the threat of closer co-operation between its two US aero-engine rivals as it posted record profits and promised five years of

double-digit earnings growth.

Sir Ralph Robins, the Rolls chairman. said he would relish a merger between General Electric and Pratt & Whitney since he said the two would "row like hell". It would also leave Rolls as the only alternative to complete American domination of the civil engine market.

Sir Raiph said that consolidation of Europe's engine manufacturers was not essectial in the way that it was for airframe companies since Rolls was already a dominant force, but he did not rule out the possible integration of MTU, Daimler-Benz's engine division.

Shares in Rolls rose 7 per cent to 252.5p as the company reported a 17 per cent jump in underlying profits last year to £276m and said it expected approval to raise the limit on foreign shareholdings to 49.5 per ceot in the next two to three weeks.

Sir Ralph also painted a hullish picture of Rolls prospects, saying the Asian downturn would only cause a moderate slowdown in orders intake this year while the order book now stood at a total of £10.1bn.

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cold

ulde

Rolls is gearing up for a further 20 per cent increase in output this year after lifting engine deliveries by 50 per cent to 1,400 last year and seeing high-margin spares sales rise 15 per cent. The group is expected to invest a further £230m building up its capacity at Derby and Bristol.

Last year Rolls took 34 per cent of all

civil engine orders against only 13 per cent for Pratt & Whitney and dominated the market for engines for the new wide-bodied twins the Airbus A330 and Boeing 777, the Trent capturing 80 per cent of all orders.

Stock markets take a bath after Intel profit warning

By David Usborne in New York By Stepen Vines in Hong Kong By Diane Coyle in London

WORLD stock markets got an unexpected dash of cold water yesterday thanks to lower-thanexpected profit estimates from Intel Corporation, the computer chip maker. It was not, however, quite the tech-wreck that some had feared.

Stocks suffered yesterday in Asia and Europe and later in New York in reaction to the news from Intel, released after the close of trading on Wall Street oo Wednesday. In London the FTSE-100 in-

5.695.6. There was caution but no panic, as dealers noted that share prices had hit all-time highs at the beginning of the week. The FTSE 100 reached 5,846.9 on Monday.

High technology stocks suffered across Europe as a result of the Intel warning, with shares in companies such as France's SGS-Thomsoo Microelectrooics and Germany's Siemens falling sharply. Earlier, the fear of weakness on Wall Street had hir Asia, and especially Hong Kong. Intel was itself the main victim of the self-off yesterday. Io early trading its stock was down 16 per cent on the Nasdaq market.

The damage was confirmation of Intel's status as the ultimate bell-wether stock for the technology sector, with its losses, however.

processors packaged in 85 per cent of all PCs in existence.

Intel had earlier said it expected first quarter results to be flat after fourth quarter reveoues of \$6.5bn (£3.9bn). It is now warning that it may come in about 10 per cent short of that oumber, which would mean revenues at their lowest since the third quarter of 1986.

Blame for the fall-off lay primarily with unexpectedly sluggish demand for chips from the PC industry. Analysts said that was in part explained by an inventory hang-over from Christmas. Other factors might include the continuing ecodex ended 38 points lower at nomic crisis in Asia, where many US technology companies have large exposure.

Some analysts saw more fundamental problems for Intel, notably its slow response to growth in demand for PCs costing \$1,000 or less where it has faced tough competition from two other chip makers, Advanced Micro Devices and Cvrix.

Io April, however, it is due to come out with its Celerion chip, specifically aimed at the lower eod of the market. PC makers might be waiting for the arrival of the oew chip.

Among other companies that saw damage to their stocks in New York yesterday were Hewlett-Packard, Deli Computer, IBM and Microsoft. None of those suffered dramatic

The Dow Jones industrial average suffered a second day of decline after a month of almost unbroken gains. But while the index was down nearly 70 points at the luoch-hour, it also seemed to be resisting the downward pressure better than

> some had expected. Even so, there was a ripple effect on other stock markets. A massive sell-off of shares in Hong Kong caused a 547 point, or almost 5 per cent, dive in the blue-chip Hang Seng In-

The decline, higger than in most other Asian markets, was triggered by a spell of profittaking following the market's relatively strong performance last month, and in anticipation of further weakness on Wall

The flow of bad news in Hong Kong is far from over. On Wednesday the government revealed that there had been a massive outflow of Hongkong dollar deposits. Some HK\$62bn (£4.8bn) or

almost 4 per cent of all Hongkong dollar deposits, was withdrawn in October, another HK\$17bn came out the following month and HK\$34bn in Jan-

The potential nightmare is that massive withdrawals of Hongkong dollar deposits will undermine the currency board system, which requires full foreign currency backing for every Hongkong dollar issued.



day after being shaken by bank troubles

toll. There was concern over reports that the International delay payment of the next tranche of the Indonesian bailout. In Korea political uncertainty contributed to a 6.5 per cent fall in share prices.

US long boad

Meanwhile, Eisuke Sakakibara, Japan's vice-finance minister, was on a South East Asian tour where he discussed tying the region's currencies to the Japanese yeu instead of the US

Continuing fears of region- dollar. This idea was rejected in al contagion also took their the early 1990s but is coming back into favour as Asian countries search for an alternative to Monetary Fund (IMF) might a link with the ever-strengthening US dollar.

> Although the yen itself is under pressure, it is the only regional currency big enough to provide a serious alternative to the US dollar. However, the weak state of

the Japanese financial system will probably make the idea of a yen bloc a non-starter for the time being.

Fear of MPC split as Bank sticks by 7.25%interest rate

By Diane Coyle Franconies Editor

THE Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) opted not to raise interest rates yesterday in what most observers reckooed must have been a close vote - perhaps even vote of Eddie George, the

Governor. While it proved to be no distraction for the stock market's woes, the announcement brought huge relief to industry.

Kate Barker, chief economist at the Confederation of British Industry (CB1), said growth was already slowing as the five rate rises since last May took effect. Ruth Lea, at the Institute of Directors, said: "Interest rates are now probably high enough to contain inflationary

However, the pound perversely climbed back above the hints of a cut in German inter-

The MPC made its decision in the light of an outline of the general Budget stance given by the Treasury's observer at its meetings. Last week the Chancellor of the Exchequer stressed there would be no let up on fiscal prudence in the Budget on 17 March

The Committee also had new signals of huoyant consumer spending yesterday. The CBI's monthly survey of the high street suggested a slowdown in retail sales during February but a buoyant underlying

trend. This followed an earlier survey showing resilient activigesting the impact of the strong pound on manufacturing tipped the MPC's verdict.

According to the CBI, the balance of retailers reporting increased sales dipped to 33 per a 4-4 split requiring the casting cent from 36 per cent in Febmary, while expectations for March also declined. But the three-month trend and year-onyear rate of growth picked up. In addition retailers' investment plans bounced sharply to a level even higher than during the late-1980s boom.

Alastair Eperon, chairman of the CBI's distributive trades panel, said: "The underlying trend shows that sales growth is holding up well," although he added that trading conditions were very competitive.

Oddly, in the light of Wednesday's warnings from furniture retailers DFS and DM3.00 barrier, in reaction to "MFI, the survey showed this sector doing particularly well. Footwear was the only one to

report a drop in sales. Separately, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said new car registrations jumped to 177,133 in February, 8.3 per cent up on the same month a year earlier. The SMMT said this continued the trend of recent months.

But the Retail Motor Industry Federation said the figures were unsustainable, and predicted that registrations this year would be lower than last year's "exceptionally high" 2.17 million

Smiths confirms **Menzies** stores taiks

By Nigel Cope City Correspondent

WH Smith confirmed yesterday that it is in talks with John Menzies to buy the group's high street newsagent stores in a deal which analysts said could be worth £80m. Smiths is understood to be in exclusive negotiations with Menzies to buy its 232 outlets which were put up for sale in January.

Smiths' intervention seems certain to end the interest of Alchemy, the venture capital group, that had previously been the front runner with a £55m offer.

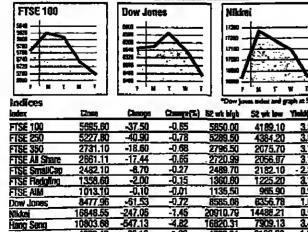
Smith's shares fell 6.5p to 492.5p. as some analysts said the group should focus on the problems in its own core chain rather than expanding it. There were also concerns that the bid might reduce the possible £250m that the group had been expected to return to shareholders.

Nick Bubb at SG Securities said: "It would be disappointing if Smith's weren't interested. It is not going to break the bank and should not prove too much of a distraction."

Menzies' main attraction for Smiths is its 92 stores in Scotland where Smiths has oo representation. Another draw is its 50 outlets in railway stations and airports. If Smiths does acquire Menzies it is likely to re-brand the stores under the WH Smith name in England and Wales but keep them as Menzies in Scotland. There may he some store closures and there could be cuts at the Edinburgh head office where almost 200 people are employed.

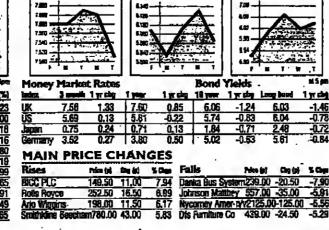
The deal is likely to be scrutinised by the competition authorities which are likely to focus on the combined group's market shares in the newspaper and magazine markets and in railway and airport locations.

STOCK MARKETS



INTEREST RATES

Short sterling



UK 10 year gift

CURRENCIES ¥Æ OTHER INDICATORS

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Australia (dollars)
Belgium (francs)
Canada (\$)
Cyprus (pounds)
Dermark (drone
Finland (martica)
Francs (francs)
Germany (merics
Germany (merics
Gresce (drachm
Hong Kong (\$)
Ireland (puncs)
Italy (fira)
Inpen (yen)
Matherlands (gul
Necherlands (gul
Necherlan 2,3687 20,40 59,90 2,7658 0,8673 8,8799 9,7495 1,6675 2,673 2,673 2,673 2,673 0,630 Norway (furner) Portugal (excudo Spala (pesetas) South Africa (ras Swaden (foroner) Switzerland, (first Turkey (Im) LISA (S)

Rolls-Royce thrugs off threat of



OUTLOOK ON WHY CRUICKSHANK IS RIGHT TO REFER. HOW TO RESOLVE THE ENGERGY GROUP STALEMATE, AND THE BANK'S PROBLEM WITH INTEREST RATES

A redundant MMC reference? Certainly not

DON CR. JICKSHANK, the telecommunithese tariffs is justified by the extra costs mications watchdog is going out with a bang and investment of mobile networks. Since by referring Cellnet, Vodafone and BT to the Monopolies and Mergeis Commission over mobile phone charges.

Vodafone, the largest mobile phone company in the UK, claims the charges levied for phoning a mobile phone were coming down to the level Mr Cruickshank wants anyway, and that the reference is therefore little more than publicity seeking bravado from the director general in his last month in the job.

Mr Cruickshank says there is no sign of the mobile phone companies moving sufficiently far with their prices to make agreement possible - that there's an obvious abuse which in the public interest needs to be investigated.

Is this, then, an unnecessary investigation and a waste of public money, or has Mr Cruickshank got a point?

Since there are only eight million people that own mobile phones but 40 million people who phone into them, there is obvious potential for milking the latter both to subsidise the former and inflate the profits of the mobile phone companies. This is even more the case given that many people when they make a call won't know they are telephoning a mobile or what it costs.

As most of us know, it costs a lot. BT will charge you significantly more than its usual tariffs for transporting your call to the mobile network and the network will then charge heavily for connecting you to

In Mr Cruickshank's view, neither of

the regulator first raised the issue a year ago, charges for incoming calls have been cut, but not significantly. More are planned by Vodafone, which presumably the others would follow, but even so there is still a gap between what Mr Cruickshank proposes and what the mobile phone compames think justified.

In such circumstances, there would seem little option but to go to the MMC_Moreover, in arriving at these different figures the two sides apply fundamentally different approaches. According to the mobile phone operators, it is wrong to use Vodafone, the biggest and therefore most efficient of the networks, as a benchmark, since the others don't share the same economies of scale and therefore might find themselves connecting calls for below cost. Mr Cruickshank doesn't accept this as a valid argument in a competitive environment.

Given that the level of incoming traffic to mobile phones is growing at the rate of 40 per cent a year, the case for for an MMC inquiry is overwhelming. The fact that it also enables Mr Cruickshank to go out with a bang is by the by.

Energy Group stalemate possible

As the battle between two US utilities for Energy Group reaches its final denouement, there seems to be a real possibili-

sequence, of both bids collapsing.

OK. this requires some explaining, since it is not widely appreciated in the stock market. Investors are generally of the view that even if the higher offer from Texas is referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, or collapses for some other reason, there is still Pacifi-Corp's offer to fall back on, which has already received regulatory approval.

But actually it may not work this way. The problem is that both sides have a potentially blocking stake in the battle. Texas owns nearly 15 per cent of Energy Group shares and PacifiCorp owns 8.8 per cent. Since the terms of PacifiCorp's bid require it to gain acceptances of 90 per cent, so that it can compulsory purchase the balance, Texas is in a position to block PacifiCorp.

Though we haven't yet seen the Texas offer document, it seems highly likely that the company's bankers have insisted on similar financing terms. Ah, you say, but PacifiCorp hasn't got 10 per cent. Oh yes it has. Lehman Brothers also own shares in Energy Group, and as an associate of Texas, these shares have to be cancelled out of the calculation, thereby tipping PacifiCorp over the 10 per cent threshold.

The upshot is that just as Texas can block PacifiCorp, PacifiCorp can block

When push comes to shove, it seems rather unlikely that bankers will allow this matter to stand between them and their fee. All the same, potentially there is a big

ty of stalemate developing and, as a con-problem here, and both sides are beginming to get exercised by it. There is a way out, however, PacifiCorp is one of the few companies in the world that actually wants Peabody, Eastern's US coal mining

> Texas, by contrast, does not want it and so has lined up Lehman and its clients to take the company off its hands should its bid for Eastern prove successful. The obvious solution, then, is for Texas to sell Peabody to PacifiCorp instead. Officially, PacifiCorp is still in the race to buy the

whole of Energy Group. In the end it may have to settle for the consolation prize of Peabody.

Bank's interest rate dilemma

Roger Lyons, the general secretary of the Manufacturing, Science and Finance union, grumbles that if the the Bank nf England understood manufacturing it would be cutting interest rates to save jobs.

And while most business leaders accept that the realistic choice facing the Monetary Policy Committee was between no change and an increase, all were relieved vesterday that it opted for the former.

According to the speculation, however, the split was even closer than last month, with the Governor forced to use his casting vote on the side of the doves.

If the Governor's intention was to placate the likes of Mr Lyons, he failed. Yes-

terday's decision did nothing to case industry's pain from the strong pound as hints of a future German interest rate cut sent sterling back above DM3.

It is quite widely believed in the industry that the MPC actually quite likes the strong pound, that the pound has in itself become a tool of monetary policy alongside interest rates. The economy has to slow to a sustainable pace of growthand this is being brought about by higher interest rates which boost the exchange rate and squeeze exports and production.

There is obviously some truth in this, but it ignores the fact that the Bank, like everybody else, would much prefer it if higher interest rates were squeezing consumer spending and the service industries as well. Then rates would not have had to climb as much and sterling might be lower. Sadly, the export squeeze might yet prove insufficient to slow growth as much as occded to hit the inflation target.

If manufacturing is feeling the chill, other parts of the body economic are still feverish, and it is the aggregate effect that will count.

More could be done fiscally in the Budget to cool the economy but this tends to be a blunt and slow instrumeot compared with the cutting edge of interest rates.

The strength of the pound is grim for exporters, but sterling won't weaken without clear evidence of slower growth, however that comes about, and, probably. a safe kick-off for the single currency. It is simply not in the Bank's gift in make life sweeter for manufacturers.

Unions give Go the cold shoulder

By Barrie Clement

Smiths

confirm

Menzie

stores

talks

GO, British Airways' cut-price airline, has already bit severe to launch a recruitment camturbulence over its plans for a paign at Go and at existing low streamlined industrial relations system.

Two of the country's largest unions have rejected an invitation to enter a "beauty contest" to see which one of them should represent employees and then preside over a three-year pay staff," said Mr Keating. freeze.

The GMB general union and the Transport & General are also unimpressed with management's insistence that nearly one-third of employees' remuneration would be made

Officials from both unions pointed out that pay rates at the airline, which will be based at of the beast." Stansted in Essex, have been set between 20 and 30 per cent lower than wages paid by the par- eral, which has the largest ent company BA.

Sean Keating, a GMB national official, is tomorrow expected to receive backing from a delegate meeting for his plan

and easyJet. "Low-cost airlines are a growing part of the market, but we want to make sure that passengers are well looked after by well-paid and well-motivated

fare airlines Debonair, Ryanair

He said it was "Indicrous" to ask a union to represent employees in circumstances where its first act would be to preside over a three year period in which wages would effectively be cut. "It may be a beauty conup of performance-related pay. test as far as the employers are concerned, but management is asking unions to play the part

> George Ryde, a national officer at the Transport & Gen-



Unions are unimpressed by GO's insistence that onethird of remuneration should be performance-related

was no question of his organi- sent other staff. Apart from the sation entering a such a contest. T& G and the GMB, it is unalthough o was prepared to contime a "constructive dialogue" with the company.

"In this country workers' have few legal entitlements. but they do have the right to belong to the union of their choice. Go ought to bare that in mind," Mr Ryde said.

The airline, which intends to operate services to Italy, Germany. Scandinavia, France and Spain, has aiready recognised membership at BA, said there wants only one union to represervices begin.

derstood that the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, MSF, the technical and white collar union, and the non-TUC Cabin Crew '89 have

also been involved in talks. A spokeswoman for the company confirmed that management was in "constructive dialogue" with all relevant unions and hoped to announce which organisation had been selected at the end of April or the be-Balpa as the union for pilots, but ginning of May, shortly before

Hanson close to capping liabilities

By Andrew Yates

HANSON, the building materials group, yesterday said it was close to capping the environmental liabilities which are a legacy of its days as part of Lord Hauson's once-proud conglomerate. Hanson also expects to spend up to £500m on acquisitions after coming near to completing a huge restructuring and disposal programme.

When Hansoo acquired Beazer, the construction group, in 1991, it inherited huge environmeotal liabilities. These Environmental Protection eventual "ring-fencing" of the tive jets and helicopters.

the chemicals division Kop- an initial hump sum and annupers, a group that Beazer ac- al premiums. quired in 1988, was responsible for contaminating water sup-

hung over the group ever since, After intensive discussions with the EPA, Hanson announced yesterday that it was writing down the value of the ness. provision to cover future liabilities by £430m to £404m due to the diminished threat of legal claims. At its peak this pro-

(£1.2m).

dents after it became clear that such a scheme it would pay out disposals will be spent on a se-Meanwhile Hanson is near

plies. The threat of litigation has business to a US buyer for around £350m. The group hopes to raise another £150m from the sale of Spectrum, its cent rise in underlying pre-tax American constructioo busi-

construction side of Spectrum ket remaining strong. while France's Colas is intervisioo had stood at \$2bn ested in the road building op-

ries of US acquisitions. Hanson is also keep to increase the size nf its building business on the tn selling its US Grove Crane Continent and is looking tn expand particularly in Central

Hansoo announced an 8 per profits to £224.7m. The group said it was confident that bous-Swedeo's Skanska AB is ing starts would pick up in the thought to be looking to buy the next few months, with the mar-

That should lead to a 4-to-5 per cent rise in the price of builderations. It is also looking to sell ing materials. Prospects for the Hanson is now in talks with some its UK property interests US market also look encouragstemmed from a series of legal a number of insurance compa- and Air Hanson, which operates ing with the US Congress due actions, initiated by the US nies which could lead to the Britain's largest fleet of execu- to increase spending on infrastructure. Hanson's shares were Agency (EPA) and local resi- remaining liabilities. Under The proceeds from these unchanged yesterday at 323p.

266-2

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MMC mobile phone referral pushes down telecoms stocks

By Peter Thai Larsen

SHARES io Vodafoue and British Telecom dropped sharply vesterday as investors took fright at the decisioo by Don Cruickshank, the telecoms regulator, to refer the companies to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for charging too much for delivering calls to mobile phones.

to 516p while BT ended the day down 13p at 592p. Shares in Se-

closed down 16p at 364p.

Mr Cruickshank said the cost of calling a mobile phone minute. He believes the cost should fall to about 20p per minute. According to Oftel, this move would cost the mobile phone operators about £200m. Analysts played down the

move, arguing that even if the

stake in Cellnet, which was charges anyway. This is a bit of to a mobile phone than on a call also referred to the MMC, a storm in a tea cup because to a land line. everyone is anticipating that the rates for calling into mobiles will fall and that's already factored was still too high at 32p per into our financial models", said planning to cut charges in Au-ABN Amro Hoare Govett an-

> is about termination charges the cost that mobile phone opcrators charge to other com-

alyst Jim Ross.

curicor, which has a 40 per cent had been planning to cut taking a larger margin on a call Vodafone, which runs

Britain's largest cellular network, said the company was gust - a move that would take the cost of calling a mobile close Mr Cruickshank's complaint to Mr Cruickshank's target. "Based on that there will be less than 3p between us," said Vodafone chief executive Chris Gent. panies for delivering a call to a "That's not a basis for an MMC

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COMPUTER SYSTEMS

Shares io Vodafone fell 20p MMC found against the tele- phone connected to their netcom operators most of them work. He also criticised BT for Ladbroke rules out merger with US partner

By Andrew Yates

tel interests with Hilton In-

ternational, its US partner. "We both looked at this 18 and there is no element of hosmonths ago and realised it wouldn't work for a lot of reasons including tax liabilities which outweigh any benefits.

We will keep an eye on the situation but it is not on the agenda," said a Ladbroke spokes-LADBROKE vesterday said it man. The British leisure group had no plans to merge its ho- also denied that the US group would look to force through a merger. We both agree on this

Speculation has been rife about a merger between Lad-Asia cost Ladbroke £10m last broke and Hilton Interna-

tional since they signed an year, as hotel residents spent agreement jointly to market less on lavish meals and exthe Hilton brand around the pensive drinks. The absence of world last year. Ladbroke is now looking to

also took its toll on takings at expand its hotel chain through Maxims, the Londoo casino. acquisitions and is eyeing up new targets around the world

Ladbroke announced a 39 per cent rise in underlying after losing out to Bass in the profits to 1226m. Betting and race for Inter-Continental. gaming profits jumped 31 per The economic turnoil in cent to £111m.

Investment, page 26

high rollers from Thailand

Shares soar as US giant makes bid for More

SHARES in More Group surged 190p to 1024p yesterday - a 25 per cent leap - as the outdoor advertising group revealed a 1042.5p a share agreed cash hid from Clear Channel Communications, the US media gi-

The offer values More at £446m, a 54 per cent premium to the average price of More shares in the 12 months before the announcement, However, the price is a premium of just 25 per cent over Wednesday's closing share price.

Last night, the Stock Exchange was understood to be investigating trading in More shares in the run-up to yesterday's announcement. In the previous two weeks, the shares had risen by more than 10 per cent, suggesting that news of the bid had leaked into the market.

Roger Parry, More's chief executive, said the two companies had been in discussions since Christmas, "At 1042.5p a share we could just not say no," he said. "It's a huge premium."

Mr Parry said the offer would create the largest outdoor advertising group in the world, with operations in 24 countries. In the past few years, Clear Channel has spent \$4bn (£2.42bn) acquiring companies a hid. But analysts said Clear in that market. The company, which is listed on the Nasdaq stock exchange, also runs 173 radio and 18 television stations.

More operates more than 90,000 fixed advertising panels around the world. It also specialises in other forms of outdoor advertising including public transport and bus shelters, and supplies other street furniture be paid to shareholders as norsuch as public lavatories.

Mr Parry insisted that the hid would lead to no immediate job losses at the group, which employs 1,000 people around the world. "There will be no redundancies and no change," he said, arguing that the bid was largely a way for Clear Channel to establish a presence in continental Europe. He said the company was also prepared to back further expansion by More. In November 1996, More spent £78m on an outdoor advertising group in Sweden. It has also recently moved into Belgium and France, "Clear Chan-

cost of capital," sad Mr Parry. Lowry Mais, Clear Channel's chairman and chief executive, said he was "impressed" with More's management team.

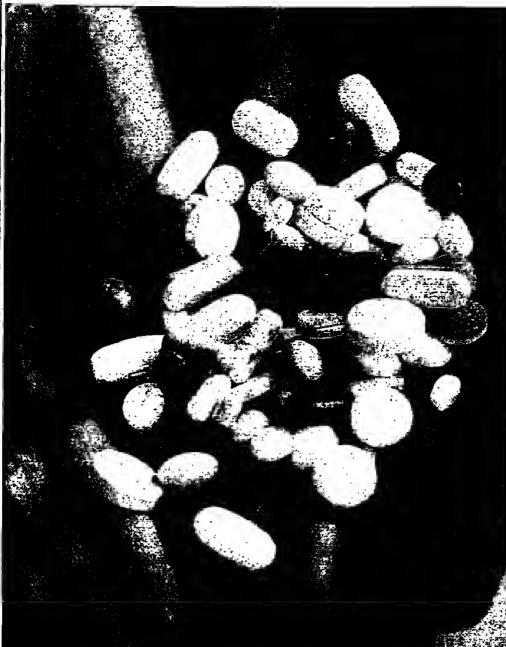
nel will give us an extremely low

More will be able to use Clear Channel's network to huild up its husiness in the US. Adshel, its display advertising group which supplies many of the bus shelters in British towns. has recently been battling for a huge £1bn 20-year contract to supply all the outdoor advertising in New York City.

Mr Parry said that Clear Channel was not the first company to have approached More about the possibility of making Channel's offer, which values the shares at 24 times 1997 earnings, was unlikely to be bettered by a rival hidder.

. The move came as Mure unveiled a 39 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £25.5m on sales up 41 per cent to £144m. Clear Channel's bid includes the 12.5p final dividend, which will

BTR: At a glance



Bitter pill: Zeneca said it was determined to maintain its independence

Zeneca stands up for independence

By Andrew Yates

ZENECA, the third-largest drugs group in the UK, said yesterday it was determined to maintain its independence and had not he said. entered into any merger or takeover talks with rivals.

Sir David Barnes, Zeneca's chief executive, said that any competitor would have to be prepared to pay a substantial premium for control of Zeneca.

His comments come in response to intense speculation surrounding Zeneca's future after merger talks between Glaxo Wellcome and SmithKline Beecham broke down last week. The two drugs giants have been seen as natural predators for Zeneca in a turbulent industry undergoing rapid consolidation. However they are thought to be unlikely to be willing to pay a high premium for the company.

Zeneca, which had risen to new highs on takeover speculation, fell 105p to 2505p before recovering in late trading to end up 5p at 2615p.

SmithKline's shares jumped 43p to 780p on mounting speculation that is could be on the receiving end of a hostile hid. Glazo is still sounding out its institutional shareholders about a deal and is rumoured to be ready to strike. There were also talk in the market yesterday that other drugs rivals, especially in the US, were also showing a keen interest in SmithKline after it two failed attempts to find a partner within a month.

Sir David said: "I do not believe that Zeneca's shareholders will easily part with their shares except at a substantial premium to where they are trading today."

He insisted that Zeneca did not need a partner and that the group's organic growth was better than Glazo's and SmithKline's. "Compared to our competitors our performance is pretty good."

pithKline

Zeneca plans to increase its expenditure on research and development from £443m to £500m this year, to compete with the likes of Glaxo and SmithKline. It is also on the look out for acquisitions. "If we can find the right opportunity - we have a strong un-geared balance sheet - we will move, said Sir David.

However, he questioned the rationale of the Glaxo-SmithKline deal, suggesting that the idea of creating a research and development giant just meant that the larger group was under more pressure to produce blockbuster drugs on a more reg-

Overall, Zeneca yesterday announced 7 per cent rise in profits to £1.08bn in 1997. With 90 per cent of its business overseas, the strength of the pound wiped £178m off earnings. Ignoring this currency impact profits rose 24 per cent, well above the 15 per cent target Zeneca has

Underlying profits at the pharmaceutical division rose 17 per cent, thanks to the launch of Accolate, an asthma pill, Seroquel, the anti-psychotic treatment, and Zomig, the migraine drug. Pharmaceutical margins were flat as Zeneca launched a consumer advertising campaign and beefed up its sales force in the intensely competitive US market. The results were in line with City expectations. However Zeneca said currency would cost it about another £89m this year.

Hillsdown board considers de-merger

City Correspondent

HILLSDOWN Holdings, the Hartley jams and Typhoo tea group, yesterday became the latest food company to announce plans that could lead to a hreak up or de-merger. Alongside flat full year profits of £153m. the company said it has established a board committee to

and report to shareholders at the annual meeting in May.

de-merge or sell its non-food interests which include Fairview Homes, a housebuilder, and the Christie Tyler furniture business

Analysts expect Hillsdown to

While some observers said the group could follow Dalgety and break itself up entirely, most analysts said Hillsdown

consider the group's structure was likely to retain its under- es and it still has 10 operating achieved with its Spiller's petperforming foods interests, companies. Its shares have foods operation. Sally Jones, at a string of businesses in areas which offer the most room for underperformed the market by Credit Lyonnais Laing said this such as red meat and leather

> Rival food groups such as Unilever, United Biscuits, Dalgety and Perkins Foods have recently all announced restructuring plans or sell-offs.

Hillsdown has been under pressure for years to reduce its collection of disparate business.

more than 30 per cent since the beginning of 1,997 and the management, led by George Greener, has said there will be "no holy

Mr Greener said he hoped the businesses might fetch a compared to yesterday's closing strategic premium like Dalgety price of 169p, up 5p.

cows" in the committee's analy-

was unlikely: "Who would want ning and biscuits?".

Analysts said the break-up value of Dalgety could be as high as 200p per share, indicating a value of £1.45bn. This

Hillsdown has already sold tanning. Yesterday it announced to pay a premium for jams, can-profits up £3m to £153m on sales of £2.6bn. Furniture and housebuilding improved profits from £41m to £62m. But profits fell in general foods which incindes biscuits and jams. Profits in poultry and potatoes also fell. The dividend was held at 7.8p.

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY ANDREW YATES

BTR set for a new dawn

LAN STRACHAN has made five results presentations to the City since taking over as chief executive of BTR just over two years ago. The previous four times, investors gave his presentation nf BTR's strategy and prospects the thumbs up, only to find themselves on the end of a profit warning a few months later. Over the same time, the reformed conglomerate's shares have lost 45 per cent of their value.

As a result it's no surprise that investors reacted cautiously to yesterday's full-year results, pushing the shares down 4.5p tn 187p. The figures were in line with expectations after last December's profit warning. Sales from the engineering group - the businesses BTR intends to keep - rose by 11 per cent to £4.9bn when adjusted for the stronger pound, while operating profits slipped in £774m, down 2 per cent on a constant currency basis.

Mr Strachan likes to talk about BTR as a focused growth engineer, leading its markets and expanding its sales by constantly developing innovative producis. But while he can give convincing examples of BTR subsidiaries doing just that, the numbers paint a different pieture. In three of BTR's four key divisions, profits fell while sales increased. And the 8 per cent profits hike in Control Systems was largely down to the first-time inclusion of recent acquisitions.

BTR argues that these drops are down to specific factors: turmoil in breader trend. Slowly but surely, Mr like the bottom for BTR. Buy. Strachan is changing the old BTR culture of concentrating on niche markets, expanding margins as far as they will go and never investing. The problem Enterprise Oil's expanding margins as far as they will is that, while the supertanker is being turned around, BTR's profit margins bright prospects will fall. Last year, the company's engineering businesses made a return on

£2.2bu sale of the packaging businesses group's chief executive probably did so wined out not debt, while the remain- yesterday when talking about prospects ing peripheral assets should raise at for the UK's biggest exploration proleast another filbn. That means BTR's duction company. The 1997 financial recontinuing operations currently trade sults were down, purmelled by falling nn a PE ratio of less than 10. Given the crude prices. Pre-tax profits shapped 28 added comfort that Mr Strachan has percent to £255m but the after-tax prof-already pledged to give £250 back to it, more relevant to an exploration shareholders, the share price rating stock, only fell from £142m to £127m. looks undemanding even if BTR pro- The results were in line with ex-

Market value: £7.61bn, share price 187p (-4.5p) 1997 Five-year record Turnover (Ebn) 8.09 Pre-tax profits (Sho) Earnings per share (p) 10.7 21.6 Dividends per share (a) 12.0 9,80--Operating Profit, 200

South East Asia, sterling squeezing ex- duces no profit growth at all in the comports, and cost overruns on signalling ing two years. There have been many for the Jubilee line. But there is a false dawns, but this really does look

sales of 15.8 per cent. In the long term. IT IS HARD for an ebullient Belgian they will end up some way lower. like Pierre Jungels to underplay the per-So what is BTR worth? Monday's formance of Enterprise Oil, But the

pectations, but Mr Jungels certainly did not gloss over the problem of the sub \$14 per barrel oil price. He expected a number of projects that Enterprise is involved in to be hit, including the giant Clair Field where it has a 15 per cent stake. Compared with the frothy presentation given by Lasmo last week And while Ladbroke lost out on the big this was dour stuff but Enterprise is anything but a dour company. It is couservatively managed but is sitting on ty of smaller acquisitions. what should be an exciting future. There were no hig oil finds in 1997 but the company has already been lucky in 1998 and with 30 wells being drilled this year there should be more good news. Enterprise's future production profile substantial long-term benefits. . looks very promising and reserves are up 13 per cent on last year.

last year and this affected profitability, but it has launched a crackdown and of 18. It is difficult to bet against Ladcan still operate vasily more cheaply broke given its recent track record but than most of its peers. Enterprise has the shares look about right for now.

also got its eggs in the right basket. Its core areas of activity are the UK and Norwegian sectors of the North Sea, US Gulf and the increasingly hopeful Italy.

This year's financial performance depends on what happens to the oil price. Even on the most optimistic forecasts Enterprise, whose shares fell 8p to 579p, is trading on a steep multiple of 28. That said future prospects look good. If you think oil prices will recover strongly, then Enterprise should be one for the investment portfolio.

Ladbroke looks a sure-fire bet

WHAT a difference a few years makes. When Ladbroke warned in November 1995 that the National Lottery was hammering its betting shop business, its shares slumped to a low of 123p. Since then it has not looked back. Along with the rest of the betting industry is has mounted an impressive fightback against the Lottery, introducing successful new number games like 49s. Its Hilton hotels business has boomed on the back of a buoyant industry around the world. Last year, underlying profits jumped 39 per cent to

So can Ladbroke keep up this cracking pace? A marketing agreement with Hilton International of the US to unify the brand around the world has raised speculation that the two will form a closer bond However both sides have ruled out a merger for the foreseeable future due to, among other things, tax problems. And there is still no sign of the US group keeping its promise to buy at least a 5 per cent stake in Ladbroke. That said, the existing tie-up should be a lucrative one, and should begin to pay off over the next few years. prize of Inter-Commental hotels to Bass, there is still scope to pick up plea-

An MMC enquiry into its acquisition of the Coral betting chain is on the cards, and Ladbroke may well have to give up more sites than it would like to. However the deal should still bring

Ladbroke's shares remained unchanged at 308p yesterday in a falling Best of all Enterprise still has a very market. NatWest Securities forecasts. low cost base. It let costs rise slightly current year profits of £268m, putting the shares on a prospective PE ratio

Great Universal steps up pressure on Argos

GREAT Universal Stores increased the pressure on Argos yesterday when it criticised management for failing to deliver profit growth and delivering a "catalogue of disap-pointments instead." GUS, which is bidding £1.60n for Argos, told shareholders: "We suggest they ask their independent financial adviser what he or she believes the Argos share price would have been today without the GUS offer." In response Argos said: "If Argos is really running out of steam as GUS claims, why is it so keen to take it off shareholders' hands?" Argos shares were still trading well above the GUS offer of 570p yesterday. They closed 5p lower at 609p.

Mirror Group in sale talks

IRELAND's Independent Newspapers and Mirror Group, the UK media group, yesterday confirmed that they were in talks about their stakes in The Independent and the Independent on Sunday newspapers. The Irish company, headed by Tony O'Reilly, broke its silence amid reports that it was looking to double its stake in Newspaper Publishing, which owns the Independent titles, by buying Mirror Group's 46 per cent stake in the firm. Mr O'Reilly's company currently owns 46 per cent of Newspaper Publishing.

Laura Ashley reduces stake

LAURA Ashley, the troubled furnishings retailer, plans to sell a 13 per cent stake in Laura Ashley Japan to Jusco Co Ltd for £9.5m. The sale will reduce Laura Ashley's stake in Laura Ashley Japan to 26.7 per cent from 39.7 per cent. Jusco, Laura Ashley's Japanese joint venture partner, will increase its stake to 72.3 per cent.

	Turnover £	Pro-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Arje Wiggles Appleton (F)3.3bn (3.2bn)	216.1m (133.9m)	18.1p (10.2p)	8.0p (7.5p)
British Metech (N)	0.368m (9.32m)	-30.83m (-17.84m	1-4.7p (-2.9p)	
BTR (F)	7.44km (6.88mg	1,07m (1.19m)	21.50 (21.10)	9.5p
Country Content (F)	48.5m (34.7m)	3.5 fm (2.27m)	13.5p (18.2p)	1.85p (1.6p)
Electronits (F)	1,920m (2.050m)	-112.5m (120.6m)	-16.4p ((1.2p)	3.6o (Sp)
Esterprise OS (F)	946.9m (1.01be)			17.4p (17p)
Calliford (1)	73.05m (88.98m)	0.764cm (0.522cm)	0.58p (0.39p)	0.5p
Happen (F)	2.480m (2.580m)	244.7m (207.4m)	29.Dp (26.8p)	12p -
Harrison (i)	2.65bn (2.57bn)	153m (150m)	18p (15.7p)	10p (10p)
Ladicalu (F)	3.82ba (3.82ba)	225.3m (163.6m)	14.8p (15.44p)	6.82p (6.2p)
Mere Group (F)	144.4m (102.7)	25.5m (18.3m)	43.3p (36.0p)	
Retail Systems (F)	3.28m (2.18m)	0.837ta (0.296ta)		112
Ocean Group (F)	1.16bn (1.14bo)	302 2m (63 0m)	157.3p (28.2p)	16.60 (15.2)
Ochhem Heldings (F)	·(-) .	.7.8m (9.1m)	10.1p (8.1p)	4.5p (4p)
Prosibrick (f)	23.00m (18.67m)	0.810m (0.710m)	7.40p (1.13p)	0.400 (0.80)
Decelohow (I)	43.69ca (39.7cd)	9.75ca (10.79m)	9.5p (10.8p)	3 32p (2.89)
Rolle-Reyce (F)	4.35br (3.90bc)	275m (-0.26m)	15.16p (-3.19p)	
Royal & Sun	- (+)	880rs (549m)	36.9p (29.7p)	
Saniscon Permit (7)	642m (600m)	14.66m (12.38m)		
Smitheld Unit (f)	5.46m (1,09m)	-3.15m (-0.190m)		
Stationre (F)	17.6m (10.0m)	1,5m (0.9m)		2.0p (1.0p)
Zanoca (F)	5 10.0m (5 30m)	1.Dibe (1.Dibe)		36.5p (35p)

Astec three take **Emerson** to court

REUTERS - Three minority shareholders in the power conversion company Astec (BSR) are taking Emerson Electric, the 51 per cent US stakeholder, to court over its plan to oust Astec board members and buy out the minority stakes, a spokesman for the investors' groups said yesterday.

A statement from the minorities said a petition had been filed at the High Court on Wednesday night.

The shareholders, financial institutions Electra Fleming, Norwich Union and Equitable Life, last night presented a petition to the High Court under section 459 of the Companies Act, which deals with action perceived as being prejudicial to shareholders.

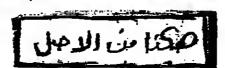
A source close to the minorities said a further four institutional shareholders -- Royal & Sun Alliance, Clerical Medical. Credit Suisse Asset Management and the Church Commissioners, - plan to sign up to the court action. Together these seven shareholders represent 14.7 per cent of Astec shares.

The source said a total of 20 minority shareholders representing about 25 per cent of Astec stock have set up a "fighting fund" to share costs of any court action.

Emerson is offering the shareholders 111p per share for their holdings, arguing that it needs to buy out the minorities to address "commercial challenges" faced by Astec, particularly in Asia.

At an extraordinary shareholders meeting next Monday, Emerson plans to vote through its board changes. It has also said that it wants to block future dividend payments for as long as it considers such payments to be contrary to the best interests of Astec and its shareholders".

The minorities and the independent Astec directors Emerson wants to oust say this offer is inadequate. Astec directors also argue that there is no need to suspend dividend payments.



SmithKline moves back into the bid ward

MARKET REPORT



City meeting fund managers. In busy trading they climbed 43p to 780p, their best level since the aborted £100bn-plus

merger with Glazo. With the investment meetings leaving Glaxo down 27p at 1,622p the obvious assumption was that the drugs giant was edging nearer to mounting a hostile bid for its erstwhile partner.

Glaxo is known to be considering the possibility of a strike. Putting such a bid together is, however, fraught with difficulties. And the message emerging from the meetings did not, according to some stock market men, support the theory of a Glaxo assault.

Glaxo's rumonred reluctance raised the possibility that American activity could re-appear. Before the Glaxo talks SB had agreed a merger with American Home Products. Although such a deal is

Beecham jumped as Glaxo lowing the bad feeling caused el is saying quite a few of them 2,665p. Wednesday's profit a further 2p to 217.5p. Arca-couragement Wellcome trailed around the by SB's behaviour, other US are a bit punchy". groups could be interested.

the group, if reluctantly, holdthey were 424p.

but had to contend with wor- 632p. ries about New York, which although weak was less depressed than anticipated.

Footsie, at one time down 104 points, closed 37.5 lower also gave ground.

and Alliance & Leicester to sell make little impact. and moved its stance on

SHARES of Smith Kiline unlikely to be resuscitated fol- Eady: "Our evaluation mod- 1,232.5p and Misys fell 60p to David S Smith moved ahead it is thought, ABN Amro en-

in the drugs industry that SB's A&L ended 2p higher at two failed mergers have left 904.5p after falling 34.5p. Lloyds lost 5p at 880p; NR ing a for sale sign. Its shares fell 22.5p to 611.5p and Abbey

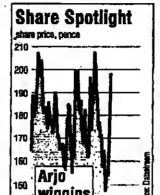
hit 845p at the height of the 55p to 1,148p. National West-Glaro excitement. A year ago minster Bank, Nat West's former parent, gave 37p to The rest of the market 1,053p. Other banks lowered drew some strength from the included HSBC, 55p to 1,705p, unchanged base rate decision and Bank of Scotland, 25p to

crossed on the expected Mooopolies & Mergers Commission inquiry into mobile charges. BT fell 13p to 592p at 5.695.6p. Supporting indices and Vodasone lost 20p at 516p. Cable and Wireless softened Banks were hit by NatWest 13.5p to 545.5p but Orange re-Securities. It downgraded its sponded with a 3p gain to recommendations on Halifax 328p, saying the probe will

Computer shares suffered Lloyds TSB. Northern Rock on the back of the profits and Abbey National from add warning from US chip maker

warnings continued to extract roups could be interested. Halifax, after falling 20p, their toll. DFS Furniture fell
There is a widespread view ended 2p lower at 923p and a further 24.5p to 439p and slumped 70p to 207.5p.

Arjo Wiggins Appleton, the packaging and paper group, kept up its revival, gaining 11.5p to 198p on a 61 per cent profit advance to £216.1m.



1996 1997

dia, the retailer, retreated interest, fell a further 22p to

Rolls-Royce, on its figures, was the best performing blue chip, up 16.5p to 252.5p PowerGen recovered 30p to 790p on Goldman Sachs support and waters were firmer with

> Safeway, the supermarket chain, was hoisted 13.5p to 387p on renewed bid hopes and Schroders responded to stake. Morgan Stanley bid talk with a 75p gain to 2,230p.

Thames Water np 28p to

More, the advertising group, soared 190p to 1,024p oo the agreed £446m US bid; other advertising groups improved with Maiden up 42.5p to 366p.

Airtours, the holidays group, added 8p to 468p on, from £3.7m to £4m.

Magnum Power surged a 13.5p to 487.5p following Mor- further 6.25p to 20.75p on ingan Stanley caution. Next, correct suggestions stockbrochemical group Meconic still smarting from Great Uni- ker Colin Blackbourn had versal Stores apparent lack of built a stake; Springwood, the leisure group, jumped 24p to 132.5p, responding to the Charles Stanley profit esti-

> Staveley Industries firmed to 130p. The salt to measuring equipment group is one of the targets of Sir Ron Brierley's Guinness Peat. It lifted its holding to 12.2 per cent, acquiring one million shares. Guinness is bidding for Bluebird Toys after building a

ScS Upholstery, a furniture retailer, firmed 2.5p to 142,5p against December's 105p flotation. Three stores are oear to opening, lifting the chain to 15 and adding 28 per ceot to selliog space. The stockbroker Collins Stewart increased its profit forecast TAKING STOCK

The BGR restaurant and food groop was the toast of AIM, closing at 220p, against a 160p placing by stockbroker Beeson Gregory

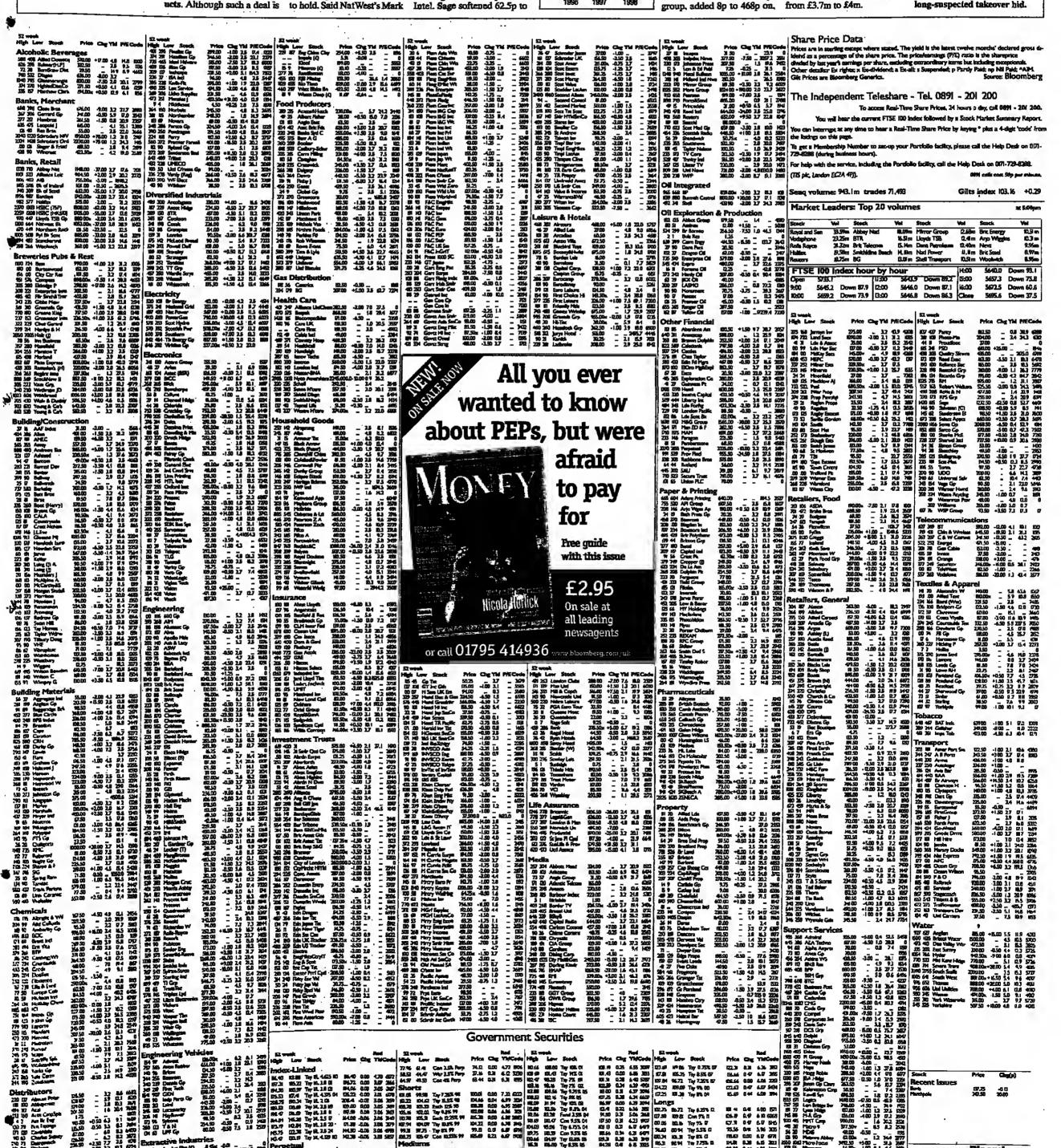
The company, headed by former chef Tony Allan, runs the renown Bank restaurant in London's Kingsway and has a food division supplying a bost of botels and restaurants, including London's Savoy Hotel and The Ivy.

It intends to develop a chain of fish brassieres nod is likely to replicate the Bank formula in other cities.

It's togetherness at recruitment groups PSD and Prime People. PSD has 29.9 per cent of Prime People and the two are based at London's Butlers Wharf. Now they are presenting their final figures on the same day - next

Many suspect n merger cannot be far way. Prime People rose 2.5p to 11.5p, anticipating a sharp profit advance - to more than £400,000 - and, perhaps, the long-suspected takeover bid.

three take Emerson to court



North Sea oil fields in danger as prices dive

By Terry Macalister

BRITAIN's largest exploration and production company yesterday issued a stark warning that development of the giant Clair Field and some of the 140 small North Sea oil accumulations could be postpooed because of rock-bottom oil prices.

Enterprise Oil said that 1998 had started "quite pretty badly" with oil prices at their lowest level in real terms for 25 years. This would not affect producing fields but it would hit new developments, it said.

Pierre Jungels, chief executive of Enterprise, blamed crude prices for a 28 per cent slump in his own company's 1997 profits. "Clair is at risk and so is the [Norwegian North Sea] waterflood project at Valhall," he said. Mark Hope, technician director at Enterprise and chairman of the oil industries trade ussociation Brindex added: "Some of the 140 [small] fields could be delayed by lower oil

Industry analysts agreed with this pessimistic scenario. Alan Marshall, energy specialist with

REUTERS -- Royal & Sun-

Royal Insurance and Sun Al-

liance, yesterday said annual

savings from its 1996 tie-up

were likely to reach £235m by

the end of this year, up sharply

from the £175m originally pre-

dicted.



Pierre Jungels, chief executive of Enterprise, blamed a drop in crude prices for a 20 per cent stump in profits in 1997 Robert Fleming, said he was don Brown, completing work on and lower oil prices led to the

his 17 March Budget, Mr Hope said "The logic is so powerful." He said he would be surprised if the Treasury did oot keep the current system roughly the

Despite the uncertainty over prices and taxes, Enterprise said it was committed to a record Blend Crude hitting \$13.45 £500m of expenditure this year. But it admitted it wanted to tighten up on spending. The oil company's cost of sales rose from £6.10 barrels of oil, equivalent in 1996 to £6.48 last year which was above its target of £6.20. This coupled with production delays share was slightly disappointing

drop in pre tax profits from £355.4m to £254.8m.

fall in net income to £127m from £142m iast year. "The results were pretty much as expected. The numbers were weak compared with last year because of higher costs, lower output and declining oil prices." said Jonathan Wright, analyst at Merrill Lynch. "Yearon-year it's about a 25 per cent decline in net income if you strip out the unusual items." Another analyst at a leading brokerage

said a total dividend of 17.4p per

of the range.

The results fall slightly be-The company also revealed a low our forecasts but not considerably," said the analyst. "What we really need to see is good comments in the analysis meeting. We don't expect to downgrade our estimates."

Enterprise said it replaced 181 per cent of its production in 1997, increasing reserves by

13 per cent year on year. The reserve replacement ratio looks good at 181 per cent," said Mr Wright, "But it's all old reserves that have been booked, there's no new discoveries."

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

IOHN WILLCOCK



NEW LABOUR is about to tell the accountancy profession whether it can go on regulating itself, free from some new-fangled watchdog. The bean counters will not be amused, therefore, by the antics of Austin Mitchell, the maverick Labour MP, who is raking up a murky episode concerning the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)

Almost exactly a year ago ACCA held a disciplinary hearing, at which it admonished its own Vice-President Jim Waits, ordered him to pay costs of £3,100 and decreed that the decision be published in the professional and local press. Mr Waits had already resigned over remarks he made at an EGM in November 1996 when he criticised Prem Sikka, a professor of accountancy at Essex University and outspoken critic of ACCA. Mr Waits accused Mr Sikka of being anti-Semitic for seeking EGMs on Saturdays, and suggested the professor form his own organisation: "Worldwide Association of Non-Chartered Certified Ac-

countants." (Work it out.) Fast forward to this February. Mr Mitchell wrote to Anthea Rose of ACCA, asking whether Mr Waits's admonishment had been publicised in the association's magazine, Certified Accountant, as ordered. Ms Rose wrote back to him on 10 February: "Unfortunately it would appear from checking back copies of Certified Accountant for the relevant period that details of the decision did not sub-

sequently appear in the magazine." "Notwithstanding the fact that the relevant staff in the legal and PR departments are oo longer employed by ACCA, I have investigated the matter and it appears that there may have been a regrettable administrative failure in this respect." Mr Mitchell fired back oo 19 February: "I am astonished by [your letter's] contents." The MP went on to berate ACCA. for failure to communicate with its overseas members, failure to hold "open" hearings, and much more besides. No doubt Ms Rose and her colleagues at ACCA will be hoping that Mr Mitchell's influence in New Labour is as . limited as it appears.

ON the day that the Bank of England decided to leave interest rates unchanged, Gordon Brown advertised for a trader in interest rate derivatives. Is the Chancellor trying to second guess what Eddie George's next move will

onk to

In fact the ad was placed by Gordon Brown Associates, City Recruitment Consultants, on the Cityscreen on-line magazine carried by Reuters. A spokesman for the agency said yesterday: "We do hopefully beoefit from the name recognition. Our owner George Brown (no relatioo) finds it very amusing."

"On the other hand, its OK now because the Chancellor is quite popular in the City. Whether it would effect us if he became unpopular I don't know."

COLT Telecommunications, which provides telephony services to the City and other financial centres, has appointed a new managing director for the UK, Jonathan Watts.

Mr Watts, a Lancastrian with 20 years experience in the computers and telecoms industries, was previously managing director of NB3, the largest single Public Access Mobile Radio operator in Europe. NB3 provides radio services for over 1,000 Tesco delivery vehicles, for instance.

The Hatfield graduate says his brief at Colt is to "manage growth and maintain our high levels of service to customers." He adds that Colt is more nimble than its larger rivals such as BT Not difficult, I would have thought.

CHRISTIAN BARTHOLIN started on Monday as a managing director of Barciays Capital in Paris, where he will promote the full range of the investment bank's services to business clients in France.

Mr Bartholin spent the previous eight years as managing director for the French operations of Bank of America in Paris. Between 1974 and 1986 he worked for Chibank in Paris, Casablanca and New York. He has an MBA from Columbia Business School.

MEANWHILE over at NatWest, the bank's Global Financial Markets (GFM) division has recruited Rafiq Manji, 32, to be its Senior Proprietary Trader.

Mr Rafic previously worked at Lehman Brothers and Bankers Trust. Nat West formed GFM last August to run its treasury, foreign exchange, interest rate trading, money market and currency options operations. In contrast to Nat West Markets, which has more or less been completely sold off, GFM now claims to be the biggest business of its kind in Europe, and the second biggest in the world. At least Lord Alexander will have something to bequeath to the next NatWest Chairman.

RENTOKIL Initial said Roger Payne, a regional director, will be appointed finance director designate from the end of 1999 and will replace the present incumbent Christopher Pearce when he retires at the end of 2000. Rentokil added that Ted Brown, Managing Director Region IV will be appointed chief operating officer, as from 1 July and the managing directors of the five regions will report directly to him.

-1575 -100 -342 -275 -925

sure they were right. "It looks like phase one of Clair could be delayed until a clearer picture emerges on the future of oil prices. Valhall needs a lot of in-

vestment and smaller accumulations are always vulnerable to low prices." With the benchmark Brent

(£8.15) per barrel for March delivery, Enterprise also said it was important there was no change in the North Sea fiscal regime which is under review by gov-

With the Chancellor, Gor-

part of the integration of the two

An additional 300 jobs, charged against 1997 earnings. at a cost of £153m. News of the formed from the merger of of the 5,000 initially forecast as mitment to keeping a tight con- disappointing figures for 1997 trol of its capital base as it which sent the shares sharply

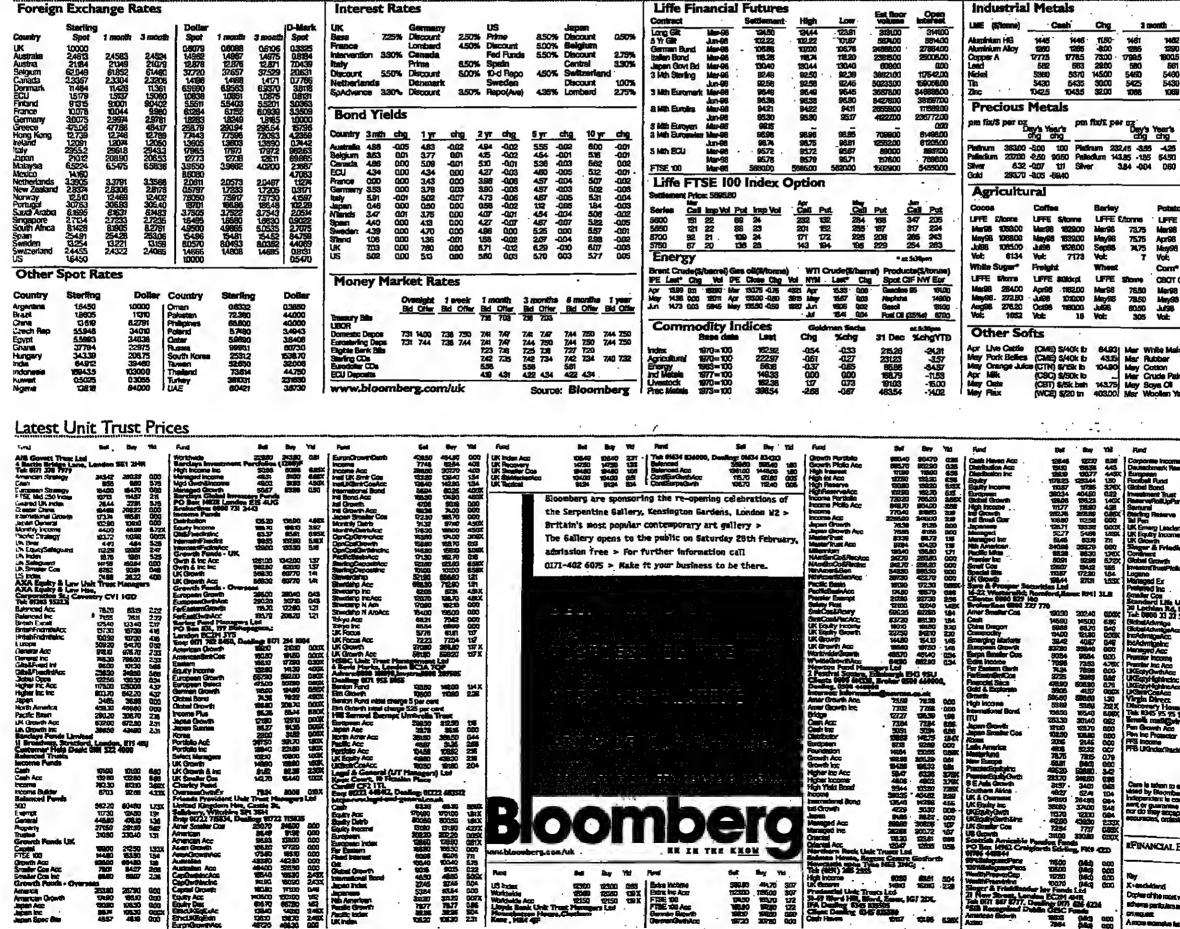
> While expected savings from other £145m to shareholders. the merger have increased, so too have the one-off costs of promised to buy back up to 5 per achieving them, up from £201m cent of its shares and completto £265m, the increase being edjust over 2 per cent last year £809m, they fell well short of antralia and the Caribbean.

Royal & SunAlliance reports higher savings

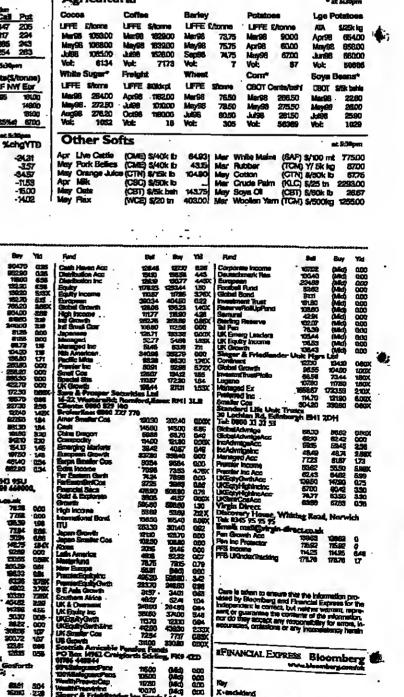
announced it would return an- lower in early trading. The shares eoded the day down 12p The group has already at 741p. While pre-tax operating profits for the 12 months

Alliance, the insurance giant mostly overseas, are to go on top The group reaffirmed its com- increased savings accompanied £900m. The dividend was increased by 10.5 per cent to 21p while the net asset value per share was up 16 per cent to 464p.

> The shortfall was largely down to a rise in the level of reserves in rose more than 14 per cent to a review of businesses in Italy, Aus-



61.50 50



England pay for Wyatt's

delayed start

England paid dearly for what

seemed an unnecessarily exper-

imental starting line-up against

New Zealand yesterday in their

fourth game here in the Six Na-

tions Sultan Azlan Shah Cup.

Starting the game without

Hockey

By Bill Colwill in Ipoh, Malaysia

New Zealand

England

Monk takes the Kelso route to Cheltenham Racing Boy and Unguided Missile are The Grey Monk remains at have been lined up for him. "He

By Richard Edmondson

GREAT clucs are available today, Watson, should you wish to ple in the ante-post markets. find winners at the Cheltenham Festival. London sleuths, however, will have to get their way across from Baker Street to el to Berwick-on-Tweed, the King's Cross this morning if they are to collect the vital infor-

A train to Scottish soldier country in Kelso may lead to some persuasive evidence for the beginning of the Cotswolds' great jamboree, which starts a week Tuesday. Gordon Richards will be sprinkling around the tips when he saddles three of Greystoke's biggest guns for a

piece of work after racing.

The Partie of the Law

s cuts

all Cheltenham bound if they do not make fools of themselves this afternoon, and any hint to their well-being will cause a rip-

It will not be cheap for the softies to gain their pleasure. Trainspotters will have to travnearest station to the course, and from there it is 22 miles by taxi to the course. Barter for the fare with the tam-o'-shantered driver.

Once in situ there may be a problem with those who appreciate their tucker. On-course picnics are not allowed almost form" following a recent spin uniquely, at Kelso. Richards, though, will hear no ill of the hosts in border country. "The ground is good at Kelso and they have been kind enough to The Grey Monk, Addington let me go," be said yesterday."

of bacterial mischief over recent months and oow there is that great clock-watching exercise with him, the race against time. "He needs all the work I can

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: McGregor The Third (Kelso 3.20) NB: Welsh Silk (Newbury 5.10)

give him," Gordon said. Addington Boy is "in good over hurdles at Newcastle and may yet be one of the liveliest outside candidates for the Blue Riband, while Unguided Missile has dropped from the highest finish third. echelon and more prosaic targets

10-1 for the Gold Cup even is in the Kim Muir and the race though he has been the victim that used to be the Ritz Club," Richards said.

Discussions will also be taking place at the Jockey Club following Royston Ffrench's decision to appeal against the suspension he was given for partnering a noo-trier at Wolverhampton on Wednesday. The jockey was suspended for seven days and his mount, Lady Jazz, for 30.

"Royston will appeal," the . jockey's agent, Tony Hind, said yesterday. "He's upset because they're insinuating he didn't try and he did. He's very down. If you go through the form book like I do you'll know that the best the horse could have done was

"Royston hit the horse three



The Grey Monk is in a race against time to make Cheltenham Photograph: Sporting Life

or four times in the straight and running down our windows in they told him he didn't try. And the trainer phoned to say the the same phenomenon from a horse was a bit lame this morning which gives more possible evidence why she couldn't lie up with the pace early on yesterday."

This may be grim stuff for Ffrench but at least he can console himself with the fact that son Savannah. It's a dirty job, while we are looking at droplets but someone's got to do it.

HYPERION 2.10 Chicago City 2.40 Knight's Crest 3.10 Hoh Warrior 3.40 Ernest William 4.10 Earthmover 4.40 Announcing 5.10 Pealings

GOING: Good (Good to Soft in back stratight on hurdes course).

GUINAL GOOD (GOOD IS JOIN IN DEAK SUBAGE AT THE ASSESSION OF COURSE IN SECOND IN SHIP FROM THE ASSESSION OF COURSE IN SECOND I

Figs; Pichic at the Carlot Pick Control of Pick (226%), O Shoracod (EADING TRAINERS: D Micholaton 24-108 (226%), O Shoracod 18-59 (305%), N Henderson: 18-93 (172%), N Howles 11-108 (102%), BLEADING JOCKEYS: A Magain 20-107 (199%), R Dumscody 20-103 (196%), M A Fitzgerald 14-121 (110%), C Liewellyn 10-102 (189%), BFAVOURITES: 192-375 (40.5%), BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Supremises (visored) (440).

2.10 ARDINGTON 'NATIONAL HUNT'

added 2m 110yds

HURRICANE HONEY J FOR 8 10 9.

— # cectarad — BETTB#C: 11-8 Pher Belbut, T1-4 Caton Len, 3-1 Chicago City, T2-1 Gibly's Cross, 14-1 Harrigale Moss, 20-1 Grey Trooper, 25-1 Hurricans Honey, 33-1 others

2.40 ARKELL BREWERY NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3m

ser zum BETTING: 9-4 Knight's Creet, 9-2 Groville Again, 5-1 Mejors Legacy, 6-1 Mourtain Path, 7-1 Swing Quariet, 16-1 Mariett Gowin, Peancaice, 12-1 Cool Burner, 25-1 Call Me Citizen, Spring To Glory, 25-1 Rathkeal

232-42 MSTER CODY (87) (CD) (8F) J Xing 12 11 13 July 5 Dursok (5) 2 Feit FRANCOMA ASSAULT (21) D Nicholson 9 11 13 July 10 Microbin 8 10 13 July 10 Microbin 9 11 13 July 10 Microbin 11 10 July 10 Microbin 11 10 July 10 July 10 July 10 July 11 10 July 10 July

HYPERION

(CLASS E) £4,500 added 3m

3.00 JOHN BOOTLE MEMORIAL NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) 26,000 added 2m 3f 110yds

rrum am 720. BETTING: 52 Youthemerbolleyett, 100-10 Donard Burva, 4-1 Charoline Chiaf, 11-2 Dandle Jusy, 7-1 Zadona, 9-1 Leap Frog, 12-1 Dongram Buy, 100-1 Hyn Prim

Carl Llewellyn went on 'strike' at Ludlow yester-

day and was fined £315 before completing a 125-1 tre-

ble aboard Pimberley Place, Madam Muck and Bosons

Mate. Liewellyn refused to partner Out Of The Blue in the EBF Tattersalls (Ireland) Mares' Novices' Chase (Qualifier). Robert Bellamy took over in the sad-

dle on the Malcolm Eckley-trained mare, making her

chasing debut, and the pair parted company at the first

fence. Llewellyn explained: "Three separate people, who I trust said: 'What are you doing riding this?"

GEOFFREY GILBEY HANDICAP CHASE

3.10 GEOFFREY GILBEY FAME

Doncaster

GOING: Good. eleft-hand, per

The First 5.00 Glacial Princess

Newbury

the coming days he will witness seat next to an aircraft porthole. The champion apprentice is scheduled to fly out to Barbados today to take the mount on Bill Marshall's Making It Happen in the Gold Cap at Garri-

● A punter walked into a Central London betting office yesterday and put £15,000 on the Champion Hurdle favourite, Istabraq, at 7-2. An hour later he went back and put on another £20,000. Corals, who took the bet, cut the odds to 100-30. The punter could have saved himself £3,150 in tax if he had placed the bet on a racecourse.

401-6 CIPRIANS CLUEEN (15) J Gifford 8 10 0 ______. O Burrows 55

Africanom weight: 10st. True handloop weight: Cionani Oueen 8st 11lb. BETTMG: 9-4 Ermat William, 100-50 Green Crusader, 9-2 Flandey Wood, 11-2 Riparius, 13-2 The Proces, 7-1 Royal Piper, 14-1 Cipriani Gueen

4.10 PETER HAMER MEMORIAL HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) \$2,000 added 3m

TIT-P1 EARTHMOVER (24) (D) R Suber 7 2 5 ... Miles P Gandry (7)

PF-3L1 HOLLAND HOUSE (16) (CD) P Charage 12 25 Mr C Vigora (5) (25-1 VITAL SONG (21) (C) (D) M Dare 11 12 5 Like G Matthews (7)

4.40 HIGHCLERE HURDLE (CLASS C) 25,500 added 4YO 2m 110yds

METEOR STRIKE (USA) (F181) Mis A Penst 11 C ... C Maude

PEVERIL PENDRAGON (21) G Balding 110 _____S For

G Bradley V

BETTING: 5-2 Atmosracing, 7-2 Guilder, 6-1 Meteor Strike, 13-2 Pietro Bembo, 6-1 Foreign Rule, 16-1 Supremism, Red Guard, 14-1 Mercilles Cop, 16-1 Spy Knoll, Time Project, West And See, 25-1 Peveril Pendingon

5.10 WHATCOMBE CONDITIONAL JOCK-

(CLASS E) £3,500 added 2m 5f

Minimum weight: 10st. True handcup weights: Young Tycoon Sal 11th, Lyphand's

F461 FOREIGN RULE (51) J Jankers 11 4

3 SPY KNOLL (83) P Hedger 11 0...... 5340 SUPPENSM (6) Mas D Haine 11 0

Olympic defender Jon Wyatt, England shipped three goals in the opening 12 minutes.
England's slim chance of making the final had earlier been dismissed after Germany had fought back from 3-1 down to beat Australia 5-3. England play Malaysia today facing the threat of a wooden spoon game on Sunday.

The humiliation would have been worse yesterday but for two penalty-corner goals from 3.40 FURLONG CLUB HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 5f Jasoo Lee, another from Wyatt. and a late goal from open play by Russell Garcia.

by KUSSCII CETCIE.

ENGLAND: J Lawle (Carnock); B Gerrard (Teddington), J Halle (HDM, The Hague), B Waisgh (Southgain, capt), A Humphrey (Carnock), B The Hague), B Petrock (Carnock), N Thompson (Old Loughtonians); C Mayer (Carnock) R Gencie (HDM, The Hague), M Petro (Rading), Substitutes: J Wyatt (Rading), Manprett Kochar (Carnock), J Shape (Carnock), J Lee (Old Loughtonians).

NEW ZEALAND: S Anderson (capt); P Derhem; A Trylin, A Hastie, R Tettershaw; J Radonovich, S Rows, D Smith; R Archibettures weed: D Gosling, K Robinson, H Gill, Umpires: P Schellekens (Ned), K Anas thavale (Mas).

Rusedski rout of Reneberg

Tennis

By John Oakley

GREG RUSEDSKI cruised into the quarter-finals of the ATP Tour event in Rotterdam yesterday. The British No 1 gave. an awesome display in beating the American Richey Reneberg 6-3, 6-2 in just 45 minutes in their second-round match.

Rusedski struck 19 aces, lost only 11 points in nine games on his own delivery and produced a perfect game when leading 2-1 in the second set, serving four successive aces.

Eleven of his 19 aces came in his last three service games and Rusedski said: "My serve just seemed to get better and better and I felt I could hardly miss." But Rusedski also played well wheo receiving serve, breaking through in the sixth game and earning the first set after only 22 minutes. Then bo broke Reneberg again in the first and fifth games of the secood

A confident Andre Agassi powered into the quarterfinals of the ATP Tour event in Scottsdale, Arizona, with his 13th win this season.

Agassi's 7-5, 6-1 win over Ecuador's Nicolas Lapentti was another bright point of a good year, which follows a terrible 1997 in which the former world No 1, now ranked 50, totalled only a dozen wins.

King robbed at gunpoint

Boxing

DON KING found his fame as the world's most famous boxing promoter of little help when four armed men stopped his car in Mexico City.

King, who is known for his stand-up hairdo, had a gun put to his head and was relieved of his wristwatch shortly after he arrived to promote a fight.

The showman promoter refused to confirm reports that the watch was a diamood-encrusted Rolex worth \$100,000 (£66,000). "It was a shiny doodad, a little bauble, a gaudy little thing that sparkles," he said. "A mere pittance wheo you start talking about your life. The watch or wealth means nothing, it's only material."

King, who was "grateful to God" for escaping alive, described how the gunmen stopped his car and another vehicle behind him. They were putting the guns right to our heads. It was a terrifying experience," he said. "All they took were watches. It was over in a couple of minutes. Had they known I was Don King, I am confident they never would

have stopped me." Lawyers for King began a High Court action in London on Wednesday against his former business partner, Frank Warren, alleging that Warren owes the American money.

BHB backs Ladbrokes' takeover of Coral

JOHN McCRIRICK, Channel that, in seeking to assess the im- BHB. Not for the first time, dustry is in the hands of one 4 Racing's caricature of a betting pundit, oevertheless spoke for many yesterday when reacting took note that Ladbrokes has angrily to the British Horseracing Board's decision to sauction to the Tote." Ladbrokes' takeover of Coral.

Tristram Ricketts, the chief executive of the BHB, said: "BHB has advised the OFT

Kelso

2.50 Maraud

GOING: Good

2.20 Pharmistice

3.20 Son Of Iris

13FP3 SOLSGRITH (20) (Girmeton Ferment) J Barchey 7 II 8.
210-F1 EWAMBISTER (Re) (D) (Colonal D) C Gerigh L Lungo 8 II 8.
3 P-F081 COPPERHAIRST (42) (C) (W T Kerre) W Kemp 7 II 8.
4 66FP-U ASK FOR BARINEY (78) (J M C Protections Ltd) 8 Potential 8 II 2.
5 00L22 CALLERHOY (29) (C) (Eachs of the lets let R I Lunch) D Lumb 8 II 2.
6 00L22 CALLERHOY (29) (C) (Eachs of the lets let R I Lunch) D Lumb 8 II 2.
6 00L24 CAPTABO (FLASS (48) (Alex K S Bermal) Mars Barmali? II 2.
6 00FP4 HP HOP (10) (D J Lunch) M Pell 9 II 2.
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pact of the merger oo competitioo in the betting industry, it agreed to sell 133 betting offices

But McCririck was quick to go on the offensive, saying: Nothing more exemplifies the spineless leadership of the

3.50 Hazard A Guess

4.20 Ask Me Later

eUndukening course. Run-in of two furiongs. ●Course is N of town off B8461, ADMISSION: Club £12on Saturdays £10weeldays; Tat-

4.50 Brambles Way

they are unable to take into account the well-being of racing - hardly surprising without a . Commission and the President'

Fair Trading realises that fair punters have a wide choice and trading is sabotaged when more bealthy competition." than 36 per cent of a hoge in-

group. Now it is up to the OFT. the Monopolies and Mergers punter or bookmaker on the of the Board of Trade, Margaret Beckett, and not racing's dis-"Hopefully the Office of credited rulers to ensure that

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

MAJOR BELL was guaranteed to find his more difficult following his successful 1993/98 campaign, and he is without a win since Bengor first time cut lest season. His fourth to Senor El Betrutti at Cheftenham in December shows he still has plenty of ability, though, and on this better going he should make more of a race of it with Beachy Head than he did at Ayr three weeks ago, when he was anchored by 12 stone on ground that was far too testing. Major Bell in 8th better off with Beachy Head, who does not depend on plenty at cut. He has a leading brance, slong with Medingor The Third, who min well at Newbury lest time but just found Court Mediody too groung on the run-in. On his basest start, Son Of Iris was pulled up in the Great Yorkshire won by Speaker Weather'st, a race in which Major Bell fell at the Tith when will in contention. Bon O' Iris was going the right was halone Doncaster. However, and there must be a change he can put that run behind way before Donosstar, however, and there must be a chance he can put that nun betind inn with the stable going well. General Command could easily need this after finishing un injured third behind Plyer's Nep at Chellenham just under a year ago, but at 10 years of ge he is certainly young enough to bounce back and a big plus is that he won first

way before Doncester, however, and there must be a chance he can put that run behind him with the stable going well. General Command could easily need this after frishing an injured third behind Flyer's Nep at Cheltenham just under a year ago, but at 10 years of age he is certainly young enough to bounce back and a big plus is that he won first time out in his three seasons with Gordon Richards. Selection: MAJOR BELL.
3.50 HENNESSY COGNAC SPECIAL SERIES FINAL NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS B) £20,000 added 2m 2f £13,615
211 LEDGENDRY LINE (45) (C) (Home & Away Pertrentity) Mrs M Reveloy 5 11 8 _ M Statish 2 302/18 HAZARD A GUESS (13) (J M S Promotons Lid) B Robwell 6 11 8 _ A B Statish 3 25 APPINE PARTHER (14) (BP) (P D Savil) Mrs M Reveloy 5 11 2 _ P Neven 4 0-5018 BALLAD NEWSTREE (7) (D E Stocke) J FitzGenicl 8 11 2 _ P Carbony 6 0391 CLASSIC ENGLE (14) (Classic Boodstock Pid) Mrs D Halte 5 11 2 _ L Myer 7 13 VALEDICTORY (25) (BF) (B Bell P Montaith 5 11 2 _ A Dobbie 1 DEEP WATER (LISA) (25) (C) (The Courty Sait) M Harmond 4 10 12 _ R Genzilly 6 13 _ L EVITTOLS (1904-8irs S L Worthshoot of Table 4 10 8 _ J Catharban 1 DEEP WATER (LISA) (25) (C) (The Courty Sait) M Harmond 5 10 _ A _ J Catharban 1 _ J Cath

BETTING: 5-2 Alphne Partites; 100-30 Deep Vales; 5-1 Ladge clictory, Balted Minstral, 16-1 Lavylicus; 12-1 Hozard A Gos 1997: Marello 8 10 12 P Niven 1-2 for (Also M Reveloy) 8 non FORM GUIDE

P WATER could be a lough opponent for the cirier hur DEEP WATER COURT OR a surger opportunities for the course rectaining of stablemate J J Sehoo in heavy ground. On better ground a month-ago, Deep Water easily brushed seide
modes five Robbo and, as he showed ability on fast going on the Risk, there is every
reason to suppose he will now well on this feater surface. Many Reveloy's three winners
of this final (Majed, Penny A Dey, Mareilo) were all ridden by Peter Niver, who stays with
Alpine Panther despits the fact that he finished larms behind when het of five finishes
behind Ginger Fox at Doncaster and was beaten a length and a half by stablemate Ladgendry Line at Newcastle beforehand. Alpine Firsther is 7th better off with Ledgendry
Line and meets the 10-length Newcastle third, Classic Eagla, on the same torms, although Ladgendry Line is clearly useful in his own right, that Newcastle win coming atter he had overhauled front-numing Cauter here in December. Write Classic Eagle has
a bit to find, his condictable win in a Falsenham bendicap confirms he is in good heart
and, as he has travelled all the way from Newmerket, connections probably expect him
to Improve again.

FORM QUIDE SWANEISTER's tail here in February, when Peperlaing best Callernoy, cannot have done any demage because he went to Carlete only five days steer and won in convincing testinon. Making virtually all and jumping well apart from a mistake at the 12th, Swanbatte finished just over eight langths clear of thirt- pieced Swiper, but Swanbatte won easily and will be fencied to best Shiper again despite this penelty. Second to the much-	Line and meets the 10-length Newcastle third, Classic Engls, on the same terms, al- though Ladgerdry Line is clearly useful in his own right, that Newcastle win coming at- though Ladgerdry Line is clearly useful in his own right, that Newcastle win coming as- the had overheaded from running Cautler here in December. While Classic Engls has a bit to find, his confortable win in a Falsenham handcap confirms he is in good heart and, as he has travelled all the way from Newmerket, connections probably expect him to improve again. Selection: DEEP WATER
improved Chipped Out at Setigited on Boiding Dey, Cellerincy has what it takes to win a gone of this sort but, like most of these, he will have to improve. Solegith would have gone close at Ayr but for falling at the last in the handloap won by Mr Knitwit, but there were only times runners and it remains to be seen how well he stays this trip. Coppon- turist does have the necessary stamina, but it was a weak mares' race that she won here in January and the ground was much poffer. Selection: SWANNESTER	4.20 NEWTON INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 added 3m 4f Penelty Value £3,203 1 Pozos BETTER TIMES AVEAD (70) & Briggs & Richards £2 2.0 Mr A Parker (7)
2.50 KELSO MEMBERS HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 4YO 2m 110yds Penalty Value £2,332	2 - 220P CELIDH BOY (13) (CD) Mis JD Goodelow! Mrs J Goodelow 2 11 2 Mr R Hale (S) V
2 46 8G 7ARGET (28) (len G M Delphinh) F Allen 10 12 A Dobble 3 20 BRIOCTUNE LINE (20) (D Playforth) Mrs M Reveloy 10 12 P Mines	7 -60650 MRSS COLETTE (15) Pichert Dynchiel Mrs D Tromson 10 10 0

7 detections of the meaning of the modern of the meaning of the me

10	(A)	2 marcon.	Mark Mar. Care
6.763	4.5	SHIP HOTEL, EYEMOUTH HANDICAP HURI E) £3,000 added 2m 2f Penalty Value £2,220	ILE (CLAS
2	1 3-365	BRANBLES WAY (20) (Nigel E M Jones) Mrs M Figeley 9 12 0	P Mba
	2 11-14	COLOUR CODE (27) (BF) (Bill Waller) Mrs A Swirtcank 8 11 10	J Suppi
ã	3 13608	PRELUDE YO FAME (402) (D) (Jumbo Pacing Cast) May K Miligan 5 10	ti R McGrath C
õ	4 DBF-43	MASTER HYDE (USA) (98) (D Calachart R Alan 9 10 8	B Store
Ē	5 4U3384	COMMON SOUND (20) (CD) (Kinneston Recing) J Barchy 7 105	A Dobbi
_	8 8-105	ONYOUROWN (48) (3 F Beer) J Howard Johnson 5 100	A B Sant
n		_ R riorianul _	
3)	Minham 1	weight: 10st. Taxe handcap weight: Onyourown 9st 66.	

BETTING: 11-8 Colour Code, 15-8 Brambies Way, 11-2 Common Sound, 10-1 Prelade To Fame, 12-1 Master Hyde, Onyources 1997; Ingletonian 8 11 8 Storey 9-2 (B Managam') 9 can FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

In a similar race at the fast massing, Many Revelops Monicate Choice best the Swinbank novice, Chemning Admirst, and the same stables should be involved in the finish again, with Brambles Way and COLOUR CODE. Brambles Way was the second sping when third to House Of Dreams and stablemete Country Orchit at Catterick last time and is reunland with Peter Niven, on board for the partier Catterick win from Passan. When Colour Code made all at Martest Resen on Broking Day his jumping with not that good, which is perhaps why birkens were attend at Sandown. As it was, Colour Code pulled too hard and ended up a remote fourth behind Good Lord Murphy over two miles sto, but he is worth another chance without the headgess. Couscon Sound is a possibility in that he is city 11b higher in the headlesp than he was when he made most and best Rechand Ower course and distance on 1 December. Selection: COLOUR CODE

HERITAGE, who won the King George V Handlesp at Royal Ascot for John Gosden, was not gurin good enough to make a whining debut over hundles but his second of 20 behand Dencing Venus at Gowten Park was not a bed start. Harlange will have to best the majority of these without any fuse to justify the 120,00gms price-tag, but he will improve and can make the most of the 12th he receives from Marsadi. Marsadi has done nothing and can make the most of the 12th he receives from Marsadi. Marsadi has done nothing and general Barker (both winners since) at Doncaster, and he could classed by Buddy Marvel and Barker (both winners since) at Doncaster, and he could herriage too strong here. Highly Respected was a since several in Marsadia Donfand Herriage too strong here. Highly Respected was a since several in Marsadia Donfand Herriage too strong here. Highly Respected was a fair several in Marsadia Donfand Herriage too strong here. Highly Respected was a fair several in Marsadia Donfand Herriage too strong here. Highly Respected was a fair several in Marsadia Donfand Herriage too strong here. Highly Respected was a fair several in Marsadia Donfand Herriage too strong here. Highly Respected was a fair several in Marsadia Donfand Herriage too strong here. Highly Respected was a fair several in Marsadia Donfand Herriage too strong here. Highly Respected was a fair several in Marsadia Donfand Herriage to strong here. Highly Respected was a fair several in Marsadia Donfand Herriage to strong here. Highly Respected was a fair several to the several herriage 3.20 MOET & CHANDON HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B)

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2.30: 1. LADY GE Many 9-1: 3. Sooble Girl 9-2. 8 ran. 7. 5. (Capt T Forster,
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12-50, C150, C150, DF: E3420 CSF: E7050.
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25-1; 2. Mirvenn Prince 13-2; 3. Restory
13-51; 2. Mirvenn Prince 13-2; 3. Restory
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Forson) Table S1770; E340, E150, E150, DF.
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2.40; 1. BLADE OF FORTUNE (Mr.) Tozerd) 9-2.2. Pridevised Prichar 7-2 for, 3.
Crosigh Patrick 12-1; 4. Rosin-B 15-1. 16
ran. 2, %, W Greenway, Totes: 2750; E170,
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3.00; 1. LANCASTRIAN JET (S Wynne)
9-2; 2. Hand Woven 4-1; 3. Mr NiconSight
8-1 13 ran. 13-8 for Supreme Lady (FeB. 12,
(Capt.) Teorden, Totes 1350; E130, E200,
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3.60; 1. SHORE PARTY (C Matter) 2-1
issr; 2. Willings King 100-30; 3. Lauren's Treasure 19-1 for ran. 10, 10, N Twiston-Derival,
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Bebbagel, Totes E270, E240, E290, DF;
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5.10; 1. DRAGON, KING (B Feator)
2-1; 2. Eurofink The Lad Ti-2; 3. Just, Janriches 15-2; 10, P. E3520, CSF; E5637, Tricast:
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LINGFIELD 220: 1, BADGE OF FAME ON R Work 2.20; 1. BADGE OF FAME (M: R Wel-ley) 4-71 for; 2. Woodland Blymph 7-2; 3. Not Forgotian 16-1, 8 ran. 18, 2. (K Bailey, Upper Lamboum). Tota: £140; £140; £150. DF: £180. CSF: £208. 2.50; 1. MUSIC THERAPY (R Johnson) -9-1, 10 ran. 2½, 10. (Capt T Forster, Down-ton). Tota: £150; £160, £280, £160. DF: £200. CSF: £191; 170; £24.00. CSP: £10.38. Trio: £34.20

5-2-2. Alpina Johns 4-1; 3. Bowelife Court 11-1. 5 ran. 11-10 few Tickerry's Gitt (4th. 7, 12. (S Mailor, Ewindon). Totas £380; £110. 22.20. DF; £320. CSF; £1238. NP: Harbet

Place 6: \$28.50. Quadpot: \$1870. Place 6: \$28.50. Place 5: \$27.91.

, some set /til.

1. Set 1. Se 3.30 SCOTTISH EQUITABLE / JOCKEYS ASS. NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 110yds

2.00 Texas Scramble 2.30 Organ Recital 3.00 Youbetterbelieveit 3.30 NORTHERN MAE-STRO (nap) 4.00 Nordic Prince (nb) 4.30 james

GOING: Good.

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el-(1-hand, peer-shaped pourse,
el-Coutre is E of town off the AGS8 (M15 Jobs 8 & 4, Bus link from
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el-EADMIG TRAINERS: Mins M Reveiley 15-46 (173%), O Nicholson 10-51 (186%), O Shenwood 8-45 (173%), T Essterby 7-27 (259%),
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el-EADMIG JOCKEYE: R Guest 6-39 (15-3%),
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2.00 SPROTBROUGH CLAIMING HURDLE (CLASS G) 52,000 added 2m 4f

4.00 MANELINE SOLOCOMB 'NATIONAL HUNT' NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 4f

2.30 DONCASTER RACECOURSE SPON-SORSHIP CLUB NOVICE CHASE

— 12 declared — BETTING: 2-1 Nordic Prince, 5-2 Di Nordic, 7-2 Lord York, 5-1 Second Fiddle, 10-1 Sunweigen, The Full Monty, Purple Ace, 12-1 Squardile, 20-1 offers

4.30 HAMBLETON HILLS HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £1,350 added 2m 3f 110yds

— 15 declared — BETTONE: 7-4 Silevenamon Milet, 3-1 Auburn Castle, 4-1 Therit U Jine, 5-1 Pro Bono, 8-1 decam The Flest, 12-1 Bracificonbrough Led, 14-1 Sallor Jim, 16-1 Arctic Life, My Norrince, 20-1 otiers

5.00 DONCASTER STANDARD OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,500 added

	fillies & mares 2m 110yds
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	MARY GALE M Pos 5 11 2. A P McCoy
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43	THREADS (20) C Voriock 5 11 2 P Ryan (7)
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	VALLEY OF HOPE (27) Life M Revisies 5 to 2
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BETTING: 3-1 Mary Gale, 7-2 Three eds. 4-1 Charry Plu, 11-2 Mary Leading The oval ball brigade have often visited the Twin Towers but Wales must make themselves feel at home when they take on Scotland tomorrow. Chris Hewett reports

ROB HOWLEY'S chastened reacquainted themselves with they made their final preparations for what has emerged as a watershed Five Nations match against Scotland. Anyone walking past Wemhley Stadium might have been furgiveo for thinking proceedings had kicked uff a day early - the cacophony from the stands was deafening but a glance down the players' tunnel revealed 75,000 empty scats reverberating to a tape recording of crowd noise.

Like the rest of his countrymen, Howley is acutely aware that a second emharrassing capitulation in the space of a furtnight would have such a deadly effect on national morale that he and his colleagues might easily spend the rest of their careers performing in front uf unthing more animated than a large cassette deck and half a dozen loudspeakers.

"You could describe this as a must-win game," acknowledged the skipper, an unusually profound degree of seriousness etched across his Stan Laurel features. On the face of it, of course, Wales have every chance of winning; as the eternal optimists of the valleys point out, no national side from the far bank of the Severn has lost to a British team at Wembley in 15 long and happy years. But then, as the pessimists remind their starry-eyed brethren, Wales have not played a British team at Wembley for 15 years.

Since the football boyos went down 2-1 to England in 1983, the red shirts have paid only a single visit to the Twio Towers, fur November's one-off Test with the All Blacks. And the least said about that, the better. Still, the Welsh are up for

Wembley, a stadium they must tribe of Weish rugby romantics call "home" and the reconsecration of their beloved Arms the field of dreams yesterday as Park cathedral is completed in June of next year. "What a surface," Howley mused yesterday. "It's quick, that's the hig thing. So quick, in fact, that even the New Zealanders were caught nut by it during the last game. A bit of rain makes it dead slippery, but you have to say that it's an absolute treat for anyone whn fancies the fast going. I hupe the Cardiff surface turns nut to be similar."

Seasoned Wembleyites are used to welcoming the funnyshaped ball hrigade, uf course; the grand nid lady of world stadiums has hosted rugby league cup finals since time immemorial, flirted with American football and even opened its hallowed portals to the England rugby uninn team no a low-key and largely forgotten occasion in 1992 when a certain Ian Hunter slipped a couple of tries past the adians un his Test debut.

Tomorrow will be different, though. The harsh realities of



Moving in: The Welsh rugby union squad enjoy a feel of the lush turf yesterday when training at Wembley for tomorrow's match against Scotland

ren's nce to

the Celtie fringe struggling to maintain their collective international credibility, but Five Nations occasions are special and the Welsh remain confident of transporting their traditional lawy! from the close-knit snuggery of central Cardiff to the warehouse-infested commerprofessionalism may have left cial wasteland of north London.

Wembley expects something special, too. "Ian Rush said it was every player's dream to score a goal here and Pele described the place as the 'church something to remember from

"We're not just about football, great excitement to beloing realthough that's the impression people have nf us. What we do is put oo events - sporting events, musical events, you nf football', but I know the name it - and in my book, a Five union supporters will take Nations match bas 'event' written all over it. We have no probtheir stay here," said the stadi- lems with rugby whatsoever. In um manager, Martin Corrie. fact, we're looking forward with

create a unique atmosphere." For Kevin Bowring, a Welsh

coach under a shed-load of pressure, that atmosphere will count for an awful lot. "I know our people will bring their ususionate support across "It's of enormous credit to

them that they have made this morrow and showing such faith a sell-out occasion so far from home, even though we let them down so badly at Twickenham.

We've talked about the bumiliation and embarrassment of the England match amonest ourselves and discussed the the bridge with them," he said. things we feel we owe the peo-

in us. Against New Zealand, they drowned out the haka with a wave of noise and they'll be at it again this time, I'm sure. What we need to do is give them something to sing about."

As usual, the most vibrantly enthusiastic Welshman on view vesterday was Kingsley Jones. the Ebbw Vale captain unt only recalled to his country's hack row but also banded the leadership of the pack. "I always thought I'd get to play here, but as a footballer rather than a rugby player," be smiled. "A number of big clubs were after me

at one time, you know." Really? And who might they have been? "Well, Blaina Westside for one."- And Jones creased up at the sight of a dozen reporters sheepishly closing their notebooks in the knowledge that they had been stitched up like the proverbial kipper. If Jones is still smiling tomorrow evening. Wembley will have done their tenants a

iger to

FROM CRYSTAL PALACE TO THE MCG – FIVE VENUES AT ODDS WITH RUGBY'S MORE FAMILIAR HAUNTS

Crystal Palace, London, 1905

England 0 New Zealand 15

TWICKENHAM was still a twinkle in some Edwardian architect's eye - it would not open until 1909 - so England played their first international against the All Blacks at Crystal Palace. During the pirevious 30odd years, they had performed at Blackheath, The Oval, Manchester, Richmond, Leeds, Birkenhead and, er, Dewsbury, but the tourists were special and the Palace was considered sufficiently pelatial to host

Hampden Park, Glasgow, 1906 Scotland 6 South Africa 0

THE Springboks had won 15 games on the bounce when they arrived at Harnoden for their first Test on British soil. Until that point, the Scots had played almost all their rugby in Edinburgh - at Raebum Place, Inverteith or Powderhall - but the Glasgow sporting lever inspired them, despite tomential rain and a sodden surface. Kenneth McLeod dominated proceedings with his kicking and it was won at a canter, Dick McGregor scoring one of his sides two tries. The Boks would tears of joy. Much to Cornish relief, the second match at a hastily refurbished that they sloped off without waiting for their

White City, London, 1908 Australia 32 United Kingdom 3

AN odd one, this. England's county champions, Comwall, were invited to represent king and country at the 1908 Olympics (Sir John Hall may blanch at the antire civilised world outside New 90,000 spectators created what John Hart, thought, but rugby was then an amated. "Zedlanickand the Shibah Islas," the Sir Sick Coach, the Shibab at a sothought, but rugby was then an amateur? game). As it turned out, they would have done better to stick to their pasties and tin mining. The Wallables slaughtered them at London's equivalent of the Olympic sta- their first Test against Hugo Porta's sedium, scoring eight tries of such quality not lose another Test here for 59 years, sport was dropped after the 1924 Games, sporting club. Only 3,000 turned up. conquerors to lift the Bledisloe Cup.

Prince of Wales Club, Santiago 1980 MCG, Melbourne, 1997 South 16 South Africa 30

THE Prince of Wales Club where? That's IF ever rugby caught the imagination of right, Santiago. As in capital of Chile, that a new audience, it was at the Melbourne revered rugby hotbed. Ostracised by the Gricket Ground last year. More than went travelling in search of some rugby . per-charged, mind-blowing atmosphere and pitched up on the continent of Pele, Tostao and Che Guevara. They played lect XV in Montevideo, for heaven's

Australia 18 New Zealand 33

on an epic scale*, and it was a mark of the visitors' greatness that they should effectively silence such a crowd with two tries in as many minutes from Bunce and

Ferguson's flock could be pick of non-vintage bunch

By Glenn Moore Football Correspondent

WEDNESDAY evening's full hand of drawn games in the European Cup quarter-finals confirmed the suspicion that there is on outstanding team in this year's competition. After three impressive vintages, Milan '94, Ajax '95 and Juventus '96, the gested the ndds were oow 98 champions, will, like Borusordinary Cru blessed with good were favourites by 55 to 45 per fortune and the ability to rise to cent. One might have thought

Manchester United - who rope's casing capital would

any of the surviving octet of success, better, indeed, than most draw in Monaco.

First they have to complete to win the round. the job in the second leg. Jean Tigana, the Monaco coach, sug-50-50, a revision of his prethat nearly three years in Eu-

team but are oot quite there yet ciating of odds. According to - thus have as good a chance as statistics assembled over the last 17 years of European competition, 70 per cent of teams gainfollowing their patient goalless ing a goalless draw away from bume in the opening leg go on

Trezeguet back for the second

could develop into a vintage have given him a better appre- leg - and they are strong on the selves to attack. At Old Trafford, sweeper, Franck Dumas. Cole did not augur well for the World

Not that United, Dortmund, Real Madrid and Dynamu Kiev (the latter two, having drawn 1-1, are even more favoured) sia Dortmund last year, be an 'match assessment that United can start preparing for the April semi-finals yet. Tigana based his assessment on Monaco's away record - they will have David

counter-attack. It was their fear unted Ali Benarbia, Mnnaco's - a rumoured target for Atletiof United's similar strength which led them to be, to quote L'Equipe, "timid and cautious" on Wednesday. For most of the match the wide men, Willy Sagnol and Philippe Leonard, were more concerned with marking David Beckham and Nicky Butt be hoping against expectation than getting forward.

With United ever-more defensive away from home in Eu- On Wednesday, Teddy Sherrope - the result of hitter ingham and Andy Cole were experience - the match thus be- comfortably contained by the came a dull one with neither man-markers, Martin Dietou side willing to commit them- and Muhamed Konjic, and the

disappointed and disappointing co Madrid - has now scored midfield schemer, both sides will have to play to win.

Although a Monegasque goal would be worth more than a Mancunian une, the onus will be on United, and they will that Ryan Giggs' hamstring recovers in time for him to play.

ed will hope he rediscovers his earlier form by 18 March. · The most impressive inge-

nuity, craft and coming of the night was shown by United's 5,000 fans, most of whom got in with or without a ticket. Some just walked in while a substan-. tial number did so with photocopied tickets on which the perforated "watermark" had been forged with a pin.

Cup. There was no nuter ring for checking tickets and at one twice in seven games, and Unit- stage, when the sheer number of United supporters arriving eoed to overwhelm them; the police drew batons.

Elsewhere, there was more disturbing news, with Thesday's violence at the Internazionale v Schalke 04 Uefa Cup match, which left a German fan in danger of losing his sight, being followed by problems at Wedoesday's Bayer Leverkusen v The poor police organisation Real Madrid game.

their fans head for Sheffield and tomorrow's Premiership match against Wednesday. Denis Irwin will not be making the trip and shortly before kick-off threat- both David Beckham and Peter Schmeichel are doubtful. All are suffering from the effects of Monaco's poor oitch. With neither Arsenal nor Blackburn playing, the champions could go 12 points clear. By the time Monaco arrive at Old Trafford -United may be fairly sure that, whatever the result, they will have another shot at the Champions' League next year.

Meanwhile, United and

Harkness denies racist slur

By Paul Walker

THE Liverpool defender Steve Harkness last night denied making racist remarks to the Aston Villa striker Stan Collymore during the Premiership fixture at Villa Park last Saturday.

Collymore claimed he was "hurt and angry" after the remarks from Harkness and that was and not anything else. If we he had deliberately informed black players at Anfield about what was allegedly said.

However, Harkness said: "I vehemently deny the accusation that I made racist comments to Stan Collymore during or after regardless of whether Collythe game at Aston Villa on Sat-"The particular background

to this game may have meant that there was more going on on the pitch than is usual, but that does not extend to racial abuse of any kind."

Before Harliness spoke out, it was revealed that Brendon Batson has been called in as an consider their response to the claims from Collymore. The Professional Footballers' Association assistant secretary travelled in Antield yesterday to

wake uf the allegations from their former striker.

Batson said he was "bewildered, upset and definitely determined" to destroy racism in fontball. He added: "Was it just two players arguing in the heat of the moment? I hope it find one person was racist theo this organisation will come down hard on them."

With the Football Association considering an independent inquiry of its own more makes an official comolaint against Harkness -Liverpool's top officials were locked in meetings yesterday. The club promised to make a statement after top-level discussions at Anfield that included the player, the manager, Roy Evans, and chief executive,

Peter Robinson. Evans said: "I don't intend arbitrator by Liverpool as they to say anything about Stan's game. He said: "Not only was comments. It is in the hands of

the cluh's top people now." goals in the 2-1 victory for a long time to calm down after Villa over his nid club, has not the match."

take part in the inquiry decided whether to make his launched by Liverpool in the complaints official - or let the incident blow over.

Collymore's agent, Paul Stretford, said: "I have been kept informed of what has been going on, but neither I or Stan will make any further comment at the moment,"

The Villa manager, John Gregory, promised that the club would give Collymore their full backing should he decide to take the matter any further. "We will back him 100 per

cent," Gregory said. "The club will be in total support of Stan. I'm disgusted, to be honest, that something like this has hanpened on a football pitch, because we have a number of coloured players and they are superb people.

But, as a club, at present we're not going to take up anything further with the Football Association."

Gregory revealed that Collymore was furious after the he taking stick physically, he was also taking a lot of verbal abuse. Collymore, who scored both It did affect him and it took him

Roberts back in the fray at Chesham

Non-League notebook By Rupert Metcalf

GRAHAM ROBERTS is back in business. The former Inttenham and England defender. who controversially lost his job as manager of Yeovil Town last month, is the new man in charge of the struggling Ryman League chib Chesham United.

The Buckinghamshire side, one off the bottom of the Premier Division, relieved Steve Emmanuel of his managerial duties last weekend. He had . Thomas. Although Roberts will not take complete charge until Tuesday week - he is fulfilling a prior commitment in Malaysia -he has already signed two play-

and Steve Brown. Colin Lippiatt, who was

than manager. Lippiatt will remain a part-time employee of the Somerset side. "It's a fresh challenge. I've never been at the helm since I started in non-League in 1978," the former

Woking assistant manager said. Lippiatt certainly needs to make his mark quickly. Yeovil, who entertain Morecambe tomorrow, have lost all four matches played since he replaced Roberts in a caretaker capacity. "The changes have been unsettling and we have to

get back on track," he added. Yeovil's chairman, John Fry, only been at the helm since Ochhas said that not appointing a tober, when he replaced Andy full-time replacement for Roberts will make more money available for player recruitment. Dave Piper, a 20-year-old right-back, has already arrived at Huish Park from Southampers from Yeovil: Graham Kemp ton, and more signings are expected soon. ...

Cheltenham Town have re-Roberts' coach at Yeovil, has inforced their quest for the been confirmed as the man in . Conference title by buying charge of first-team affairs at the hard-up Hereford United's top GM Vanzhall Conference club scorer, Neil Grayson, for an - but as "head coach" rather undisclosed five-figure fee.

About turn for Spackman? By Ian Rodgers

NIGEL SPACKMAN may be about to return to Sheffield United as manager - only a few days after quitting.

Spackman departed on Tiresday but, after the resignation of the chairman, Mike McDonald. vesterday and a restructuring of the club at boardroom level, which will see the chief executive, Charles Green, move away from football affairs. Spackman has emerged as a prime candidate from four contenders. "There is a possibility that

Nigel may be able to assist us in team management," Kevin Mc-Cabe, a Blades director, said. Board members recognise with hindsight that maybe things could have been handled differently over the last week or so." "We are in discussions at the

moment with possible appointees for the position of team manager and that does include Nigel Spackman. We've been speaking to him from Tuesday onwards. There has not been a total breakdown of communication with him."

Another man linked with the

Macari, wants to link up with Spackman in a managerial The existing telephone line was team. The former Celtic and Stoke manager is one of the four men on the shortlist.

If nothing is settled today, the coaches Steve Thompsoo and Russell Slade may stay in charge for tomorrow's FA Cup quarter-final at Coventry. The Wadsworth, is also reported to be in contention.

The Southampton chairman. Rupert Lowe, has denied rumours suggesting Matthew Le Tissier is to join Manchester United in a £2m deal. "It's total nonsense," he said, "There is nothing in this whatsoever."

The Southampton striker Kevin Davies will be out of acing following an ankle injury.

Everton, without the susthe next two matches, have had an attempt to sign the West Taylor on Ioan turned down by the Midlands side.

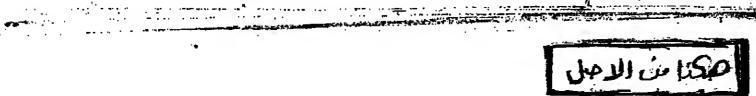
The European Union has asked the World Cup organis-Bramail Lane vacancy, Lou ers in France to upen up a spe- win 20 semi-final tickets.

cial ticket line to overseas fans. set up only to take ticket reservatious from fans with an ad-

dress in France. The EU and the French Organising Committee held talks yesterday in the wake of EU charges that the France 98 ticket allocation discriminated Scarborough manager. Mick against foreigners. England, Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium have demanded a fairer share-out. The EU has accused the FOC of breaching its principles of free and fair com-

petition. The EU Commissioner, Karel van Miert, said the three months remaining were not sufficient for all the necessary changes in the ticket allocation, tion for another six weeks. He but he hoped organisers would has suffered a setback in trainmany changes as possible.

This weekend French fans pended Duncan Ferguson for will have a chance to secure tickets for the two World Cup semi-final ties for a fraction of Bromwich Albion striker Bob the normal price - and from and unusual source. Française de Jeur, France's national lottery company, has said that lottery players will have the chance to



Coltard blows

hot to lead

Golf Andy Farrell

reports from Doha

Qatar Open

GIVEN the huge intervention from man and machine required to establish the Doha Golf Club, the first green cham-

pionship course in Qatar, two of the layout's natural features

remain its strongest defence. The limestone rocks around

which the fairways and greens

have been laid, carpet-like,

were here long before the con-

struction of the course began

providing for a severe new challenge for the players of the

McLaren's chance to be kings

Formula One could see changes in the ruling class this season. Derick Allsop reports

A NEW season, with new-look McLaren are on the threshold of rs. new-look racing and new their first championship since champions. It may sound naive- 1991. Or could it be Ferrari will ly catchy and simplistic, but this emerge from their lair and claim is the widely favoured perspective of sport's most extravagant roadshow as it opens again for business this weekend.

By the time day breaks over Britain on Sunday, we shall have a clearer overview on macher's leadership. whether this is indeed the start . of something different, or mere- a third season with Ferrari, bely another false dawn in Formula One.

The only certainty is that the cars lining up on the grid in Melbourne for the first grand prix of the world championship will substantially changed from last year's. They will be narrower and fitted with grooved tyres to make them slower and, the

leneuve - doubt the racing will be safer, suggesting mistakes will be more commonplace and the cars will spin further off the track.

Others, such as Jackie Stewart, are of the opinion that there reaction to victory or defeat will be more opportunities to overtake for drivers blessed with the natural car control to take advantage. That would surely be no bad thing for the likes of Villeneuve, or Formula One, Stewas is less convinced about the im Williams' armoury, but they espects of Damon Hill and David Coulthard. It is highly probable that the

established major players, Williams, Ferrari. Benetton and McLaren, will again be seen ahead of the rest, since they have the expertise and resources to exploit the new regulations.

There are, however, distinct signs that the order at the top is about to change and that

their first drivers' title since 1979? Or perhaps Benetton, who like McLaren have changed from Goodyear tyres to Bridgestone, will prove they can beat all comers without Michael Schu-

Schumacher, embarking on lieves tyres will be crucial to the outcome of the championship, naming McLaren and Benetton, rather than Williams, as the most serious threats to his ambitions of winning a third title.

Williams themselves acknowledge the authenticity of McLaren's challenge, anticipate the continuing hounding by governing body contend, safer. Schumacher's Ferrari, and recog-Some drivers - notably the "nise the potential of Benetton's world champion, Jacques Vil- rejuvenation. And yet, if they are worried, it does not show. In fact, an apparent lack of emotion tends to characterise Williams in the public perception as vividly as their consistent success.

However, the stoically British should lure no one into the misapprehension that Williams' appetite for winning has been satisfied. Renault's withdrawal from Formula One would appear to indicate a possible weakness are satisfied the engine will be no less powerful or reliable. They profess themselves equally confident that the combined prowess of their drivers will have been significantly enhanced.

Villeneuve and Heinz-Harald Frentzen are in tandem for B second season and each should be better for the additional experience in the front line of grand prix racing.



Main man: The Williams driver and world champion, Jacques Villeneuve, signs autographs in Melbourne yesterday

It is conceivable, though not likely, Villeneuve will be less motivated now he has a championship in his account, but he is conscious that he still has to persuade the world he is the hest.

Frank Williams confirms: 'It gets up his nose to keep hearing Michael Schumacher is the best. He believes he is or will be better than Schumacher. I think be can be as good as Michael and remember he has had only two years in Formula One against Michael's seven.

head I've ever come across. He's brilliantly skilful and a very tough competitor. I think his homeland has a lot to do with it. They breed tough guys in Canada.

You can give him advice but in the end he will do what he . wants to do. He does, though, learn with every race."

must heed the lessons of last year if he is to retain his place in Formula One's most successful team. "We believe he will do a better job," Williams said.

The subject of Frentzen's fitness - or comparative lack of it ought to make the difference. became a source of irritation and mirth within the Williams camp last year. The German will have understood Frank Williams' message behind the jokes and will doubtless respond accordingly. "Jacques has got the bardest

Fitness has never been a dirty word for Frentzen's compatriot, Schumacher, who remains the strongest single element in the Ferrari equation. notion his team are favourites His unrivalled powers of improvisation almost denied Villeneuve the championship last season.

new car is still something of a dence and expectation.

Frentzen will be aware that he mystery, because Ferrari have avoided testing alongside their rivals. That may mean they have too much to show, or too little. the finish line-ahead of Schu-Now they can hide no longer. If the car is just about as good as and Coulthard, he has two any other, then Schumacher

> Everyone in Formula One recognises Schumacher's ability to outwit the rest in abnormal circumstances, but McLaren. like Williams, are banking on their ability to out-engineer and out-organise Ferrari.

Ron Dennis bas led McLaren through six seasons of indifferent performance but much as he publicly resists the for the ehampionship, contending "it's a waste of time to make predictions", the body lan-The quality of Schumacher's guage shouts out his confi-

He takes the view that if the car is good enough a 15-year-old should be able to drive it across macher, and in Mika Hakkinen rather more experienced, if scarcely geriatric, drivers.

Evidence of McLaren's revival was apparent last year and Adrian Newey's new car has been the talk of pre-season testing. If Mercedes achieve reliability to complement the power of their engine and the tyres work as well as has been forecast, then Dennis has a formidable package.

Benetton are no slouches either. Under the guidance of the ubiquitous David Richards, they seem to have found a fresh vitality, epitomised by their young drivers, Giancarlo Fisichella and Alexander Wurz. Their in-

experience may be tray them at critical moments, but they could well be competing for victories. Prost, Jordan and Sauber can anticipate some robust midfield jousting, while Arrows,

whom Hill abandoned for Jor-

dan, Tyrrell and Stewart will be

anxious to ensure Minardi hang on to the wooden spoon. Stewart, who have the benefit of Ford factory support, will be expected to take a significant step forward in their second sea-

son of grand prix competition. Ken Tyrrell, had planned a sentimental last journey on the world championship tour before relinquishing all links with his team to the British American Racing organisation, but a difference of opinion has forced a premature split. Which is a shame, because this year's Tyrrell looks a useful car.

five years ago, as was the wind. At this time of year, it comes straight from the Iranian mountain tops and sweeps in over the Arabian Gulf. Its cooling properties are welcome and it is also

European Tour in the inaugural Oatar Masters bere. With greens many found difficult to read, the scoring was so bunched that six shots covered 114 of the 132 players and for most of the day it looked as if nobody would get past 69, three under par. This being the mark were a busioad of players arrived - ending up as a round

dozen - mevitably, not one but

two players came along together to break out of the pack. Scotland's Andrew Coltan had a 68 and his playing partner, Anders Forsbrand of Sweden. a 67. Like all good Scots, Coltart, born and raised in Dumfries, should be used to playing in the wind and has a track record that suggests as such. His two Australian PGA titles were claimed

in hlustery conditions. "I don't think anyone likes playing in the wind," he said. You don't say, 'oh good, let's go out and practice' when it gets windy at home. You just know that everyone is going to be making mistakes and you can hlame

your bad shots on the weather." It was hard labour even for the biggest of names. In contrast to his 19 under par effort in winning the Dubai Classie last week, Jose Maria Olazabal had 15 pars in a row before a hirdie at the 16th in his round of 71, while Ian Woosnam and Seve

Ballesteros both scored 72s. Coltart finished with three hirdies in the last four holes. Forsbrand, having hirdied the first two, also birdied the last three, hut Derriek Cooper, whose only tour success in Madrid came 10 years ago, bogeyed his last hole (the ninth) to fall back to three under.

Mark James and Sam Torrance, the two favourites to become Europe's next Ryder Cup captain, hoth said they might reject the job if it is offered to them.

Torrance said he wanted to play another match, "and I don't think there's any way you can be a playing captain". James said: "If I was playing well in asked I think I would certainly

Edwards eager to be Buils' ringmaster England coach suspended

By Dave Hadfield

SHAUN EDWARDS wants to take on more responsibility for organising the Bradford Bulls on the field following the disappointment of their Challenge

Cup defeat at Castleford, Bradford now have more than a month without a match before the start of Super League. Edwards, the most I was Shaun Edwards. It's up to honoured player in the history of the game, intends to use that time to move into a more cenrole with the Bulls.

"We were all over the place panache yesterday, with their

to take on more responsi for calling the shots."

Bradford's main winter signing has had time to reflect on his part in his new side's downfall at Wheldon Road, when Cas scored two tries while he was in the sin-bin.

"I blamed myself at the time, hut I've watched the incident on video and I now think the only reason I was sin-binned was that me to realise that and be more disciplined in the future."

The Bulls launched their

Basketball ing that they would make up their Cup letdown.

"We won't be going to the Twin Towers and that certainly stings," he said. "But I've told the players that if we win all our Super League games we will win the Grand Final and that is our

"Some people think we are old news, but we will be grabbing your attention again.' Simon Middleton, who has

been playing rugby union for Leeds, has asked Castleford season with characteristic so that he can play for Lecds in the summer.

Wigan's financial backer, Dave Whelan, has criticised plans to take a Test against New Zealand to Watford later this

Whelan, whose proposal for taking full control of the club goes before its shareholders tomorrow, hopes to establish the new ground that will be shared by Wigan's football and rugby

teams as a Test venue. Geoff Berry, who has been doing the job on a temporary basis since the end of last seafor a release from his contract son, has been confirmed as the League's controller of referees.

By Richard Taylor

THE English Basketball Associption have suspended the England coach, Laszlo Nemeth. after his outburst following last weekend's European Championship defeat against Israel.

However, EBBA's problems with the Hungarian might soon seem a minor irritation. The association expects to hear within days that they have failed with a World Class Performance hid to the National Lottery for £1.8m a year, to fund their national team's programmes.

Boxing

Cricket

windowing its Cardin Web it in Huters (Harrisgood Boys Wattarn) to 3rd. Bentamweights L. Pet-fison (Huters Boys) by N. Cook (Harrisgood Boys Wattarn) to 3rd. Bentamweights (Pet-fison Brund Brund Petro I in November 1 in Williams (Army) bit L. Meiger (Receip gots Lightweights A. Mei, sein (Birfisy Boys) by S. Lawton (Cavensborny), pie. Light-weitenmeights A. Mei, sein (Birfisy Boys) by S. Lawton (Cavensborny), pie. Light-weitenweights D. Wattarn (Hight-middlesweights C. Besievy (Army) by G. Froch (Phoento) pie. Mediterweights J. Pietros (Weitengron) by J. Mei, and J. Metro (Hight-middlesweights J. Pietros (Weitengron) by J. Sind-disweights J. Pietros (Weitengron) by J. Sind-disweights J. Pietros (Weitengron) by G. Grow (J. Sind-disweights J. Pietros (Weitengron) by G. Gerry Boys) to 2nd Hewryymeights N. Hoedring (OAF) by P. Lewis (Burndy) is 2nd. Super-historyweights A. Harriscon (Repton) by O. Redmond (Rover) is 2nd.

Glamorgan, the county chempions, yesterday announced a record trad-ing profit of £171,248 for the year end-ed 30 November and a separate

donetion of £67,283 from their sup-porters' ctub.

During the suspension had backed his players' state-Nemeth is banned from speak. ing to the press and from the association's headquarters in Leeds. Nemeth's passion and frustration over the England men's team was vented following the 82-68 defeat, when he made what the association considered to be a personal attack on its chief executive. Steve Catton.

"I am totally committed to the players but I have no respect for Steve Catton and the EBBA," Nemeth said at the time. "I am still for the sport and the players but I am mad after four years of constant lies."

Before the game, Nemeth

siders his future on 14 March. The failure of the Lottery bid will leave the national team facing even greater starvation of resources in preparation for next season's five return fixtures in their championship group.

ment criticising EBBA's attitude

towards the team, and the two

incidents have brought the ban

until the executive board con-

The association's chairman. Peter Knowles, said: "The Association deplores the recent press and public statements and particularly the totally June and July and was then unjustified criticisms of the

have to say 'No'."

Sporting Digest

Today's fixtures Football

7:30 unless stated NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE SECOND DIVISION Oldfram v Bristo! City (7.45) THIRD DIVISION

EAGUE OF WALES: Phayader Town v Car-RAI HARP LAGER CUP Quarter-finel: Si Patrick's Athletic v Shelbourne (735) DR MARTENS LEAGUE Southern Division Lavent v Waserlooville. SCREWFDX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Division: Westbury Utol v Odd Down, Las Phillips Cup: Twerton v Creditors.

Athletics

A INTERNATIONALS: France v keland (70) pon).
UNDER-21 INTERNATIONALS: France ireland (50) (at La Roche); Wales v Scotlar (230) (at Caarphilly).
AIB LEAGUE Second Division: Wanders v Old Wesley (70).

Rugby Union

Basketbail BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Chester Jets 1

Other sports BOWLS: English Worn Championships (al Poti TABLE TENNAS: England National Champ

Activates

Sam Haughlan, the British junlor cross-country champion from Hounslow, goes for his second national tills in a week - following his win in the British last weekend - when he competes in the senior boys' race at the English schools' championships at Chaltenharn racecourse tomorrow.

Badminton

Badiminton
SWEDISH OPEN (Bortange, Swe) Men's singles first round: F Bergstrom (Swe) bt A Visido (Fin) 1-3 15-12; Chung Hen Wong (Matey) bt O Pongrate (Gen' 15-12 5-5; A Boesen (Den) bt P Elemicov (Den) 1-3 6-5-1; Hei (Eng) bt A Melingram (Swe) 5-3 5-5-1; Hei (Eng) bt A Melingram (Swe) 5-3 5-5-1; T Johnsson (Swe) bt H Sperre (Nor) 5-8 5-6-5; D Palyarra (Neth) bt P Lants (Fin) 15-6-5-5; O Encision (Swe) bt N C Middau (Den) 15-12 5-7; Feng Zhu (Ch) bt 3 Flocking (Soc) 5-3 5-9; M Constable (Eng) bt O Johanneston (Swe) 5-2 5-1; Jee Orang Ahn (Swr) 5-7 (Can) bt H Songa (Est) 5-8 5-9; C Trembotne (Can) bt H Songa (Est) 5-8 5-5 5-7; C Robertson (Sco) bt S Lundstrom (Swe) 5-8 15-5 5-

Basketball ENESPECIALISMS
MEA: Cheriote 112 Minnesota 102; Cleveland
122 Toronto 88; Orlando 98 Seetile 83;
Philadigine 87 Mintellies 80; Uteh 110 Boston
94; Golden State 90 Sen Antonio 83; LA Lukers
104 Notine 95; Secramento 109 Detroit 89.

Ann Cox and Lynne Thelwell gave the England selectors a timely reminder when they won the rational two-bowl triples title at the English Women's Indoor Championships at Great Yarmouth, Both Cox and Thelwell, from the Handy Cross Club in High Worcombe were demoned for this the Handy Cross Club in High Wycombe, were dropped for this month's home international series at Darfington, But along with club-mate Jean Williams they battled to a 13-th victory over Jan Dearling, Terri Wall and Sue Jones from the Preston club in

Sue Jones from the Preston CILO in Brighton yesterday.

Endatish women's indoor chaushon-Shiffs Greet Yamouth) Tribles quarter-franks: Preston, Brighton (J Deerling, T Was, S. Jones) to Eldon, Newcaste (S Nesdatt, A Whiteles, Charle). The Royal Tribles semi-franks: Hendy Cross, High Wycombe (J Wilsens, A Cox. L Tribles) to Athericy, Scuthernpon (A Peerce, N Kerry, W Line) 16-17: Preston Brighton (J Deerling, T Walt & Stones) bt Nottinghen (8 Morley, 8 Atherton, M Lomas) 75-14. Pinest: Handy Cross bt Preston 13-11.

NUMBER

stands to collect if Istabrag wins the Champion Hurdle later this month. He walked into a Coral betting shop and out on £15,000 at 7-2. Having returned to his hotel room, he thought better of it, collected another £20,000 and out

Fours, first round: Bentham, Gloucestershire (J.Surman, P. Peactoy, M. Pye, G. Smith) bt Ex-mouth (M. Belt, E. Heisty, C. Baries, B. Harrich) 27-19; Biackpool Borough (J. Cropper, M. Malfison, P. Barries, D. Furty D. Motse, R. H. Perk, Kent (J. Pearson, A. H. S. Hazel, D. Solyot 38-79; Minned, Someriset, E. Hazel, D. Solyot 38-79; Minned, J. Marriell, D. S. Hazel, D. Solyot 38-79; Minned, S. Hazel, D. Solyot, J. M. Marriell, D. Weldon, Susser, M. Chourn, J. Marriell, D. Solyot, D. Marriell, D. Courty, A. H. S. Hazel, B. Gariell, M. Carriell, M. Marriell, D. Courty, A. H. S. Hazel, D. G. Garbindge, Chesterton, J. Minned, T. T. S. Croydon, (D. Prior, J. Adamson, P. Dovie, T. Starken, M. Carlotterative, M. Marriel, M. Carriell, M. Barwell, Laioustershire, J. Michimoort, V. Thompton, P. Barland, A. Marriell, M. Barwell, Laioustershire, M. Alchimoot, V. Thompton, P. Barland, M. Corsel, (D. Chest, M. Holler, S. Lacey) b. Moonflast, Chosel, (A. Harriel), M. Barrell, B. Schott, B. Barlet, B. Barland, S. Hochard, S. Hazel, B. Barlet, M. Hickards), S.-S. (after earler end). SHEFFIELD SHIELD (First day of four): Administer Dusernalend 258 (A Symonds 153); South Australa 4 for 2, Hobert New South Wales 310 for 7 (C J Richards 164, M G Bevan 58) v Bestranta, Perthe Western Australia 166 (A C Glichter 109; D J Salver 4-66, M Innese 4-42); Vistoria 66 for 1.

Football Peter Jackson, the Huddensfield Town manager and his assistant, Terry Yorath, yesterday signed new con-tracts, agreed less week, which will leave them at the club until the end of

the 1999-2000 season. Allen Evans, the former Aston Villa coach, was warned at an FA discipl-nary hearing in London about his fu-ture conduct after an incident involving an assistant referee earlier this sea-

em assistant treneree earrer this season.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First
Christon: Queerly Prix Rangers 3 Wintland 3.

WEDNIESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: European
Cap querter-finals first leg: Monaco 0 Manprestor Util Q: Beyer Leveriamen I Real Mackid
1; Bayern Muriori 0 Borusula Dortmund 0; Juvenita 1 Dynamic New 1. FA Carling Premierablio: Leede 1 Tottenfiern 0, Nationaride
Frootball Lasgues First Divisions. Norwich 3

Birmingham 3; Nottingham Forest 0 Sundariand
3; Port Vello 0 Tazinnere 1; Queerts Perk
Flantgers 5 Michigant Coupt 0; Wolves 1 Stole 1.

Bell's Section Leegue 9 Second Divisions:
Stratmar 0 Brachin 2. Third Division: East Strfing 0 Queent First 0, Leegues of Webers Posiherd 0, Biddiand Division: Stratphuns 0 Rothwell 0. Biddiand Division: Stratphuns 0 Rothwell 0. Biddiand Division: Corby 0 Recidici 2;
Softu 4 v54 Rugby 1; Southand Divisions Frene
Positioner Winstoy 1 Netwerled 1, Fostrecent formet birmond 1 Corbet.

First Division: Winstoy 1 Netwerled 1, Fostrecent formet birmond 1 Corbet. Solinu 4 VS Rugby 1, Southwap Division: Fire-hern 6 Babhay 2, UmBland League Preader Division: Postpored: Whysiand v Alfreton First Division: Whitely 1 Netherfield 1, Post-pored: Great Herwood v Greins. League Cap fourth-round septy: Gainsborough 2 Bahlop Audhard 1 Ryman League Third Division: Her-Auddard I Rymm Langue Trans unwauer nor low 1 Thing Q. Amott Insurance Northern Langue Hist Division: Quisconcyt 5 Bi-linghern Yown 1; Stockoon Q Emington Q Northern Counties East Legiste Previller Gi-vision: Hollam 1 Bring 1 Urigit Sunsan Coun-ty Langue First Division: Littlehampton 2 Langue Transit Langue

SO, Jameson wasak Linda Preji Division: Spockenhurst 0 Cowei Sports 0. Pontine Laegus First Division: Coveriey 0 Notes Courty O Postponed: Manchesiar City v Lisicastor, Oldrem v West Bromelury 9; Rotherham 3 Bredford City 2; Sheffeld Left 1 Lincoln City 3 tet Don Welley Steckens; Westers He Bustley 4 Postponed: Beotpool v Rocholes, Tatel Division: Newcastle 0 Chesterfield 1 fat Gelsensed; Southorpe 1 Scarborough 3; Wester 1 Chester 1 (Annual Chester 1 (Annua

chief executive."

CATAR MASTERS (Dobs) Landing first-round scores (SB or inf unless school): 67 A Footbrand (Swell 68 A Cobert 69 M Halborg (Swell M Turnicatt I Garbart, D Getond, P Duirt-d (Switz D Cooper, J Remserd (LS), A Ste-borns, R Durmond, R Messes, (SA), M Resis

(Swe), M Turnicati, I Garbart, D Catend, P Outcl (Swit), D Cooper, J Tournand (193), A Sterborns, R D Dummond, H Wisseein, (SA), M Reade
(ft, II Carter, 70 V Philips, H P Thai, (Sch.), S
Turning (Den), P McSishey, R Gaosen (SA), P
Solard (Swo), A Sandywell, M Florid (ft, M A
Martin, Sp), M Floot, T P Eden, M James, P
Lewris, C Whitelew (SA), S Lufin (So), A Didcorn, C Whitelew (SA), S Lufin (So), A Didcorn, C Whitelew (SA), S Lufin (So), P Walton,
II Chapte (Swe), F Floot (So), J M Olezabal (So),
P Price, A Caleman (Ann), 72 P Curry, A Walk, K
Wook-soon (Kon), S Siruver (Gen), E Romero
(Art), R Ballisstens (So), J Cooress (Arg), M A
Jamenez (So), P Michell, I Garrido (Sp), P Boldor, F Barniad (Fr), R Chapmen, R Martiz (Welh),
P Rate (Swe), U Thomprish, R Sandyard (Den),
R Torrance, S Gags, J Sandelin (Sire), I Woosnierr, P-J Johansson (Swe), A Caleg (Gar), K
Erfesson (Swe), Landing first-round accores (AusNathrala, Alan). TOUR CHARDPONISHIP
(Cartherny), Laseling first-round accores (AusNathrala, Slan). a) Leading first-round scores (Aus sated): 66 W Scrith, 66 P. Beckwell, M Goggin, 67 M Chayton, 11 Chairmers, N CHemp F Senior D Ecob, 68 T Demony (US), 5 Sou-vier, T Ellott, 2 Cartson, G Kenny, S Aler (NZ), 69 M Pthy, 8 Hughes, 8 Leeney, C Sperios, C Taylor, J Moseley, P Gow, 8 Owen (NZ), C Mo-

SIX NATIONS SULTAN AZLAN SHAH CUP (poh, Malayala) Shah day: Australa 3 Gor-

ice skating Thierry Cerez, the French chempion, has failed a drugs test for the barned starcid nandrolone taken at the Eu-ropean chempionships in Milan on 15

Rugby Union Bristol Rugby Ctub have suspended their Tompan International wing Oave Tiuet on full pay. The 24-year-old player will be unable to train or play for the club. Bristol are refusing to disclose the reason for their action other than to say if a property. say it concerns a possible breach of contract.

Skiing Katja Selzinger of Germany, yesterday secured the woments World Cup downhill and super-G titles after two races in the respective disciplines, planned for the weekend in Morzine, France, were cancelled because of bad weather and safety reasons.

Tennis

MEN'S WORLD INDOOR TOURNAMENT (Flotianthing) Singlies, second rotents: 7.6-frenson (Swe) tr K Carlson (Den) 6-3 6-7-6; B Steven (AZ) is M Darren (Cz Rep) 7-6 6-7 7-6; G Russdaki (GB) tr R Rentberg (US) 6-3 6-2. PANKLIN TEMPLETON MEN'S CLASSIC Scottadata, Arizona) Blagics, second round: Costa (So) DI S Serpien (Arm) 6-3 3-6 8-1; W Gambil (US) DI N Keller (Gar) 6-2 6-1; B icheken (Neth) bi R Fromberg (Aus) 4-8 7-1 -6; A Agessi (LS) bi N Lapprid (Ed) 7-5 8-1 NUVEEN MASTERS (Naples, Florida) Round robin: J McGroe (US) bt J Linyd (185) 6-3 6-3: B Borg (Swe) bt J Kriek (US) 7-5 6-2; A Garrez (Ec) bt M Behrand (Iran) 6-3 3-6.

#*. **.

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TODAY'S

£120,000

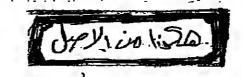
The amount a punter that on, too.

ON WEDNESDAY IT WAS THEM.

Draw date: 4/3/98. The winning numbers: 6, 28, 30, 34, 41, 45. Bonus number: 12. .

CATEGORY	NO. OF WINNERS	AMOUNT FOR EACH WINNER	TOTAL EACH TIEF
Match & (Jackpot)	1	£4,796,128	£4798.128
Match 5 plus bonus ball	16_	£92,233	£1,475,728
Match 5	338	£2,728	£922,084
Match 4	21,688	£92	£2,013,698
Match 3	433,467	£10 ·	£4,334,670
TOTALS	455,710		£13,642,288

ST COULD BE YOU. THE NATIONAL LOTTERY



RFU to offer Dallaglio world-record £1 m

Rugby Union

By Chris Hewett

preparing to escalate its in- reigning national champions. creasingly bitter conflict with the expires at the end of the season fessional clubs by offering rest of the RFU hierarchy des-Lawrence Dallaglio, the na- perate to break the clubs' contional captain, a five-year contract worth £1m. The deal would country's leading talent, his immake the 25-year-old flanker the pending freedom makes him an highest-paid player in the world obvious target. game and, for a while at least," the most controversial.

Rugby has thrown up the odd millionaire hefore - David Dallaglio is being placed Campese and Will Carling spent

and harrel by the union rather high-rollers - but the sheer valthan a Premiership club. His ue of the deal being dangled be-The Rugby Football Union is current deal with Wasps, the fore Dallaglio will make the southern hemisphere hig guns green with envy. The All Blacks. owners of the England's pro- and with Fran Cotton and the for example, earn around £100,000 a year from the New Zealand RFU.

> fiercely loyal to Wasps and acutely aware that the Premiership clubs would react violently towards any agreement along the lines favoured by the union. Sir John Hall, the hardline owner of Newcastle, has South Africa. The Northampton pared for an emergency

land player owned lock, stock as the game's first seven-figure not allow an RFU-contracted nounced on Mooday that he "It's put up or shot up time," he the hizarre possibility of a club-However, Dallaglio is both less weeks in a kind of Premiership limbo.

> Primacy of contract - or, in as to their availability. simpler language, who owns who - is at the root of the crisis over this summer's England tour of ultimatum, but Barwell was al- when they're going to rest. At or discussion". Ashadded: "The Anstralia, New Zealand and most incandescent as he pre-

player within a mile of his would prevent his Test contin- said. "Clive has dug himself into he is far from alone in his de- and Tim Rodber, from travelling. termination to maintain the On Wednesday, Clive Wood-RFU move therefore throws up private meeting with his squad at Bisham Abbey and warned them less Dallaglio spending count- that they risked forfeiting their immediate Five Nations places unless they could reassure him

> No RFU figure would comment on reports of a Woodward

Kingston Park premises and gent who include Paul Grayson a hole, for the players told him at Bisham that if he forced them to choose between club and contractual status quo. The ward the England coach, held a country, they would have to tracts." choose their clubs for contractual and common sense reasons.

> "We want a little bit of professionalism and a little bit of common sense. We want a and the clubs so we agree when the players are going to play and the moment, the amateurs at the RFU - and I include Fran . ultimatum and points out that

arrogance about them. The players are under contract to the chibs. What Fran and Clive are doing is asking my players to act illegally and break their con-

Doug Ash, chief executive of English First Division Rugby, the clubs' pressure group, said that a letter had been sent to Woodward "condemning his apparent bullying of the England players into accepting his views without reasonable debate letter asks him to withdraw his

meeting of club owners today. and Clive in that -still have this failure to do so may lead to a hardening of attitudes amongst

Richard Hill, the Samoons and England flanker, pulled off what might be seen as the tactical ruse of the season by ruling himself out of all further rugby for some time. Hill, who would have been in the front line of the battle over tour availability, needs surgery on a long-standing back condition as

will go under the knife tomorrow. "I realise I can no longer play to the best of my ability with the injury as it is," Hill said. "Some-

thing has to give." Wales at Wernbley, page 30

McAllister rues World Cup blow

By Ken Gaunt

GARY MCALLISTER yesterday relived the moment when the 2002 World Cup comes he knew his World Cup dream around in Japan and South

The Coventry City midland limped out of a reserve Wednesday night with a recurrence of the knee problem that has kept him out of action for the last three months. He was trying to be positive about his

cialist on Monday and is exright knee in the next seven days. He anticipates being out of action for eight months. 2000 European Championship as well as the World Cup.

"I was aware when I had my with the situation myself and it's cartilage operation eight weeks hard to take in. Everyone is to support the knee by building up the muscles." McAllister said. "I felt I had to go down that road, although I always knew it was a gamble. Getting fit and training all went well, but

to be the first competitive game. "The fact that I broke down knee wasn't right and gave me a definite answer. I just turned right knee huckled under me."

ciate ligament when he injured his cartilage in December, but had hoped to make it through

surgery. Those hopes have now been dashed - and McAllister's season has come to a premature end. He will be 37 by the time

Scotland's manager, Craig fielder and the captain of Scot- Brown, and the players offered their sympathy and support afgame against Notts County on ter hearing the grim news about McAllister, who has been

Brown said: "Of course it's a major disappointment for "very upset" immediately after Scotland, but I think we should the incident, but yesterday was put the player first in this kind

"You have to think of what McAllister will visit a spe- it means personally to him and he's naturally very upset. So am pected to have an operation on I and I know the rest of the peothe torn cruciate ligament on his ple connected with the squad will he as well. "We all know what going to

the World Cup finals meant to which means he will miss the Gary. He missed out in 1990, opening qualifiers in for the when he was on the hench, and was desperate to play in France. "I'm just coming to terms

ago it would be a gamble to try aware how influential a playe Gary is on the park. "But what is sometimes un-

derstated is the way he's respected both on and off the park by the other players." Brown will name his squad

the acid test was always going to face Denmark in a friendly on 25 March a week today and there is now a vacancy for the with no one near me shows the captaincy. The Aberdeen goalkeeper Jim Leighton, the Blackhurn defender Colin Hendry and reached for a ball, and my and the Monaco midfielder John Collins would appear to be McAllister damaged the cru- the main contenders. Brown said: "I'll make a decision about

that a little hit later." United verdict, page 30

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

Independent's David Ashdown is Sports Photographer of the Year





DAVID ASHDOWN, the

Chief Sports Photographer of

The Independent and The In-

dependent on Sunday, has been named Sports Photographer of

The award was announced

Ashdown, who has been

with The Independent since the

newspaper's launch in 1986, has

the Year.

Cricket

By Mark Baldwin

in Bridgetown, Barbados

Christopher Shaw (top) competing in the men's 200m breaststroke at the British Grand Prix in Leeds. (Photograph taken with a

NikonF3 at 500th of a second on 300mm lens at F2.8 on Kodak multi-speed film) Cheisea (left) defend a freekick taken by Middlesbrough's luninho at the FA Cup final. (Photograph taken with a

NikonF5 at 320th of a second on an 800mm lens at Fl6 on Kodak multi-speed film) Ben Tune (above) scores Australia's second try against England at Twickenham.

(Photograph taken with a NikonF5 at 500th of a second with a 300mm lens at F2.8 on Fuji 800 ASA film pushed to 1600 ASA)

Warne will soon

be full of beans



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last night at the British Press folio in the Canon Sports Pho-Awards dinner at Lancaster tographer of the Year category Gate in London. at last night's awards, which

Stewart stands by status quo

Figures in geometry text-

Line attached to this current could produce lights

10 Sort out the grit (7) 11 Former Queen working with mother (7)

12 Start to bring water in two forms? That's a good idea

13 You must get out for this!

(5) 14 See first half of series as

dud (5) 15 Stolen drug - NATO's leader removed — controversial affair (3,6)

17 Money not allowed for au-

ditioning these musicians?

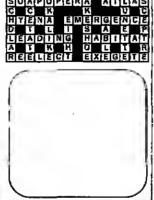
ritation (5) book that reader sorted out 21 Drive that is consuming parinmentarian (Liberul) (5) 23 Means of transporting germs 8

seen to work (9) A solitary type found around front of monastery? (7) 26 Notice reduced functions for

partners (7) Nonscuse, mate (4) Carthorse called Des gallop- 14 Oil carb until working ing round end of valley (10)

DOWN Nick is encountered after most of the beat (5) The main thing separating Australia and New Zealand?

Tired women relaxing, taking in a bit of lovely contact What about the old girl with trim short hair? (7)



the Grail (7)

What brings up, say, ob-scure insect? (5) A mere shop redesigned communications system?

showing OT text unsuitable for women?

16 What could produce easing à la painkiller? (9) 18 Respect almost total almost — for naval offi-

19 "Deserted" is employed (or "abandoned" [7] Questions youngsters about money (5)

One's embraced by

flower girl (5)

ALEC STEWART does not expect to be handed the wicketkeeper's gloves for the fifth Test against the West Indies in Barbados next week.

The England opener gave a clear indication yesterday of his thinking for the match. In the past England have often reacted to times of crisis by using Stew-Readily available work art's all-round capabilities as a means of putting an extra bowler

or batsman in the line-up. However, Stewart believes a return to three seamers and one spinner is more likely after the defeat in Guyana, which has left England 2-1 down with two

do it, as always, if I was asked.

but I would be surprised if we change the wicketkeeper now. I'm not on the selection committee, but no-one has spoken to me about keeping. If that's the way they want to go, then fine, but I don't think it will be."

won many national and in-

ternational photography prizes,

including the prestigious In-

ternational Olympic Commit-

tee's worldwide "Best of Sport"

were sponsored by the Post Of-

fice, comprised these three

Ashdown's winning port-

Stewart feels the main requirement for the Barbados Test getting England's batting firing as a unit. "I know it might sound a hit strange, because scores have been generally low and we've struggled to get going, but I don't think that any of our batsmen are out of form," be said. "Mike Atherton, for instance, is moving well at the crease and you can say the same for Nasser Hussain and Graham Thorpe. It's never been straightforward making runs against the West Indies, but the pitches and Tests to play. He said: "I would a high-seam ball have made it

SHANE WARNE has demanding culinary tastes and his hosts

on Australia's tour of India have had to admit defeat. The legspinner has an aversion to spicy food and an Indian inability to cater to his particular needs took the wind out of his sails as he prepared for the first Test, which starts in Chenai today. The bowler, who was none

too pleased earlier this year when several cracks were made about his corpulence, has lost pounds already on the tour, but his cri de coeur has been answered. An emergency shipment of his two favourites among the 57 varieties has been dispatched by the manufacturers. Soon the spaghetti or beans

on toast he craves will be his for the asking.

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very difficult for us."

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